



Aruba TODAY

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Russian President Vladimir Putin, wearing a Team USA pin, and U.S. Olympic Committee chairman Larry Probst visit USA House in the Olympic Village on Friday, Feb. 14, 2014, in Sochi, Russia. (AP Photo/Marianna Massey, USOC Pool)

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Vladimir Putin drops by USA House in Sochi



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Vladimir Putin drops by USA House in Sochi

**ANGELA CHARLTON
STEPHEN WILSON
Associated Press**

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — In a powerful symbol of international sports detente, Russian President Vladimir Putin dropped in on U.S. Olympic headquarters Friday to chat about the Winter Games and the upcoming Russia-U.S. hockey showdown.

He even wore a red "Happy Valentine's Day from Team USA" pin on his lapel. Putin spent about half an hour at USA House in Sochi's Olympic Park, sitting on a couch talking with U.S. Olympic Committee chairman Larry Probst and CEO Scott Blackmun. From there, he made a stop at Canada House next door. "Putin was very gracious," Blackmun told The Associated Press. "What I would remember is it sends a strong message about the importance of sport to Russia."

The Russian leader looked relaxed, wearing a dark jacket with an open-collared light blue shirt. He had a glass of red wine as he asked the Americans about their experience in Sochi so far.

"We talked about mostly our impression of the games," Blackmun said. "He was very interested in knowing what we thought about the level of infrastructure, the level of services. ... We complimented him on the great operations so far."

Putin's visit offered a sharp contrast with the chilly state of political relations between Washington and Moscow over issues that include Ukraine, Syria, Edward Snowden, gay rights and human rights.

President Barack Obama is not attending the games. In what is seen as a snub, the U.S. delegation to the Olympics does not include a president, former president, vice president or first lady for the first time since 2000.

But global politics took a back seat Friday as Putin turned up the charm during a visit that appeared calculated to defuse ten-

sions and soften his image, but remind everyone he is the central force behind Russia's games.

He sat with the U.S. team officials on cream-colored sofas in an open-air terrace in the center of the USA House, as American athletes, families, sponsors and fans looked on.

"He was genuinely interested in whether we were

Sochi, even though the Americans are struggling in many sports where they expected to do well.

"What I like about your team is that you have a strong participant in practically every discipline, and it's an even team racing for medals," he said.

Putin also thanked the U.S. for supporting Sochi's Olympic bid. Sochi was

whether NBC is happy," so Probst invited Gary Zenkel, the president of NBC Olympics, to join their discussion.

After the U.S. visit, Putin walked across a grassy patch to the adjacent Canada House, a white building with a huge red maple leaf painted on the side.

Putin gave a short speech in Russian to cheers from



Russian President Vladimir Putin wears a Team USA pin while visiting USA House in the Olympic Village during the 2014 Winter Olympics on Friday, Feb. 14, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.

(AP Photo/Marianna Massey, USOC Pool)

having a quality experience at the games," Blackmun said.

The conversation touched on Saturday's preliminary round men's hockey game between the Americans and Russians. The game has revived memories of the "Miracle on Ice," when the U.S. beat the Soviets to win the gold medal at the 1980 Games in Lake Placid. "Naturally we will root for our own, but we know how many of our athletes play in the NHL," Putin told the Americans, according to Russian news agencies. "I promise you we have a lot of fans who love and know American players."

He may be among them, and Putin is expected to attend the game.

Putin praised the performance of U.S. athletes in

awarded the games in 2007 after Putin traveled to Guatemala to lead the bid presentation.

"I remember how well the U.S. representatives considered our presentation in Guatemala. We remember that, and are thankful to our American friends for the support," Putin said.

Putin's visit to USA House started with some American athletes saying "Welcome!" to him in Russian. He answered "Thanks!" in English, according to Russian news agencies.

USA House is a haven for American officials, VIPs, athletes, sponsors, families and guests to relax, eat and drink. The space is shared with NBC, which is broadcasting the Olympics in the U.S.

Blackmun said Putin "asked

the Canadian crowd, saying "Thank you very much, hope to meet you in the (men's hockey) final."

A cluster of American and Canadian students later excitedly shared stories about their chance encounter with Russia's leader.

"I got to shake his hand!" said Daniel Saltman of Los Gatos, California.

Medical student Hannah Gliner of Winnipeg, Canada, said she followed him into Canada House, slipping in behind his bodyguards.

"He's not nearly as scary as I thought he would be. But his security is quite scary," Gliner said. "I can't speak for his personality whatsoever, but he shook my hand twice, so he must be friendly." □

Pope marriage recipe: 'Please, thanks, sorry'

**NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press**

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis offered some Valentine's Day advice Friday for a lasting marriage, telling 25,000 lovebirds that the recipe for success lies in saying three simple words: "Please, thanks and sorry." Francis told fiancés gathered in St. Peter's Square for a special papal date that expressions of courtesy, gratitude and contrition go a long way toward conserving and enhancing love over time.

"Never finish the day without making peace!" he begged them.

"Because if you end the day without making peace, what you have inside becomes hard and cold and it becomes harder to make peace the following day."

Francis has on several occasions met with young couples to give them advice before embarking on marriage.

The need for such church counseling, both before and after the wedding, is a theme he's expected to elaborate on at a major Vatican meeting on the family in October.

Francis has often lamented how many marriages end in divorce and has blamed such failed relationships on today's prevailing "provisional culture" that makes people unwilling to make lifelong commitments.

Originally the audience was due to be held inside a Vatican auditorium.

But the response from soon-to-wed couples to Francis' invitation for a Valentine's Day date was so great — Vatican officials said 25,000 people from 30 countries showed up — that the event was held in the piazza on a perfect, sunny afternoon after weeks of rain.

Francis joked that we all make mistakes and that no one is perfect: "The perfect family doesn't exist, nor the perfect husband nor wife. Let's not even talk about the perfect mother-in-law!" □

Winter storm leaves 25 dead in US East Coast



A pedestrian walks along a snow-covered street, Friday, Feb. 14, 2014, in Albany, N.Y. Schools are closed across a swath of eastern New York from the mid-Hudson Valley to the Albany area as the region starts to dig out from 12 to 20 inches of snow dumped by the latest winter storm.

(AP Photo/Mike Groll)

MARK SCOLFORO
RON TODT

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A winter storm that brought snow and ice to the U.S. East Coast moved off-shore Friday, leaving at least 25

people dead and hundreds of thousands without power and causing a large pileup in Pennsylvania that injured 30 people. The deaths included a pregnant woman struck by a mini-plow in New York

City whose baby was then born by cesarean section and two people killed when they tried to aid a truck driver on a snow-covered interstate in North Carolina.

Across the U.S., this is shap-

ing up as one of the snowiest winters on record. As of early this month, Washington, Detroit, Boston, Chicago, New York and St. Louis had gotten roughly two or three times as much snow as they normally receive at this point in the season.

The latest go-round of bad weather came just in time to delay tens of thousands of deliveries of Valentine's Day flowers, dropping snow, sleet and rain on roads already covered with deep puddles and icy patches.

The snow, sleet and ice that bombarded the Southeast on Wednesday brought its ferocity into the Northeast on Thursday and Friday.

Numerous traffic accidents involving multiple tractor-trailers and dozens of cars completely blocked one side of the Pennsylvania Turnpike outside Philadelphia on Friday morning and injured 30 people, none seriously.

The crashes were reported about five hours after snow ended. Speed restrictions enacted during the storm had been lifted, but motorists say the roadway was

coated with ice.

By the time it stopped falling, 22.5 inches (57 centimeters) of snow was reported in one Pennsylvania County. Parts of upstate New York got up to 27 inches (68.5 centimeters). Washington, D.C., received 9 inches (23 centimeters) of snow Thursday, while New York City got nearly 10 inches (25 centimeters).

The sloppy mix of snow and face-stinging sleet grounded more than 6,500 flights nationwide on Thursday and about 2,100 more on Friday. About 1.2 million utility customers lost power as the storm moved from the South through the Northeast, dropping to about 450,000 outages by Friday morning, mostly in South Carolina and Georgia.

The treacherous weather was blamed for more than two dozen deaths, many of them in motor vehicle accidents.

In North Carolina, two Good Samaritans were killed Thursday night when they tried to help the driver of tractor-trailer cab that spun out on a snow-covered highway. □

American photographer wins World Press Photo award

WASHINGTON/AMSTERDAM (AP) — American photographer John Stanmeyer won the World Press Photo of the Year award for 2013 on Friday with a moonlit shot of African migrants in Djibouti holding their cell-phones to the sky, seeking a better reception signal.

The 19-person jury chose 53 winning photographers in 18 categories out of nearly 100,000 submissions from around the globe for one of photojournalism's most prestigious awards.

The Associated Press won first place in single-shot "Observed Portraits" for Markus Schreiber's picture of a disappointed woman in Pretoria, South Africa who had just learned she would not be able to view Nelson Mandela's casket.

Stanmeyer, of the VII photo agency, was working for National Geographic. The photo has a mysterious, eerie quality as the phones

held by the men in the picture glow the same color as the moon. The signal from neighboring Somalia is cheaper, and they are

hoping to send and receive messages from relatives abroad.

Djibouti, in the Horn of Africa, is a common stopping

point for migrants attempting to reach Europe or the Middle East.

One jury member, Jillian Edelstein, said the photo

raised issues of "technology, globalization, migration, poverty, desperation, alienation, (and) humanity." Another, Susan Linfield, said it stood out for its humane, dignified portrayal of immigrants. "So many pictures of migrants show them as bedraggled and pathetic," she said.

Among other standouts were a series by photographer Goran Tomasevic of Reuters of a rebel attack on a government checkpoint in Damascus, Syria on Jan. 30 that won first place in the "Spot News Stories" category.

One black-and-white image captures in high resolution the instant after a shell has landed and a fleeing man is engulfed by dust and rubble.

Jury chair Gary Knight called it "one of the greatest images of war combat that anybody has ever seen." □



In this photo provided on Friday Feb. 14, 2014 by World Press Photo, the World Press Photo of the Year 2013 by John Stanmeyer, USA, VII for National Geographic, shows African migrants on the shore of Djibouti city at night, raising their phones in an attempt to capture an inexpensive signal from neighboring Somalia in Djibouti City, Djibouti, Feb. 26, 2013.

(AP Photo/John Stanmeyer, VII for National Geographic)

Victory for gay marriage in Virginia, but critics vow to fight



Cleopatra De Leon, left, and Nicole Dimetman, a couple legally married in Massachusetts who have sued Texas over its same-sex marriage ban, outside a federal courthouse in San Antonio, Feb. 12, 2014. The judge made no ruling on their case, but on the same day, a judge in Kentucky struck down portions of that state's law that prevented the recognition of marriages performed in other states. (Jennifer Whitney/The New York Times)

ERIK ECKHOLM

© 2014 New York Times

Supporters of gay rights celebrated Friday their latest courtroom victory, the overturning of Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage, as opponents condemned the decision as an infringement on states' rights and vowed to take the issue to the Supreme Court.

Invoking Abraham Lincoln and the nation's historic struggle against racial discrimination, a federal judge declared late Thursday that Virginia's laws that limit marriage to a man and a woman violated the due process and equal protection provisions of the 14th Amendment.

The ruling was the first to overturn one of the state amendments banning same sex marriage that prevail throughout the South. It followed similar recent decisions, overturning marriage restrictions, by federal courts in Utah and Oklahoma, and by state courts in New Jersey and New Mexico.

"We have arrived upon another moment in history when We the People becomes more inclusive, and our freedom more perfect," wrote Judge Arinda L. Wright Allen of U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, in Norfolk.

But a lawyer defending the marriage law in this case, Ken Connelly, said Friday that the ruling "interferes with the right of Virginians to determine the future of marriage in their state, and it raises serious constitutional issues." Connelly is a staff counsel of Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian legal group.

Gay and lesbian couples in Virginia will not be able to obtain marriage licenses immediately because Wright Allen issued a stay, pending the outcome of an expected appeal to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in Richmond.

Still, the plaintiffs, including two gay men who seek to marry and two lesbian women who want their California marriage rec-

ognized by Virginia, were overjoyed.

"This is not only important for us as a couple, it's even more important for us as parents," said Mary Townley, one of the plaintiffs, on Friday. She and her partner have a 16-year-old daughter and, she said, "It means the world to her that our family will be treated like any other family."

The ruling, which overturned a constitutional amendment adopted by Virginia voters in 2006 as well as previous laws, also said Virginia must respect same-sex marriages that were carried out legally in other states.

This week, a federal judge in Kentucky ruled that the state must honor same-sex marriages legally performed in other states, but the ruling did not address Kentucky's own ban on such marriages.

If the appeals court upholds Thursday's decision, the repercussions in the South, where opposition to same-sex marriage has been strongest, could be wide. Restrictive state amendments would most likely be voided in other states of the 4th Circuit, including North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia. (Maryland, the fifth circuit member, approved same-sex marriage in 2012.) But legal experts on both sides of the issue expect this case, or others among the dozens now being argued in federal courts around the country, will be taken up by the Supreme Court, perhaps within the next year or two. Leaving out Virginia as well as Utah and Oklahoma, where the rulings are also stayed pending appeal, same-sex marriage is now authorized in 17 states plus the District of Columbia.

The challenge to Virginia's ban was argued by the same bipartisan team of legal stars, Theodore B. Olson and David Boies, that successfully contested California's ban in 2010. They argued the case on behalf of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, a private national group. □

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\$200K bond for NYC man arrested amid Hoffman probe

JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A musician charged with keeping a 300-packet heroin stash amid an investigation into

Vineberg was in court seeking bond in a case that has drawn a share of the publicity surrounding Hoffman's Feb. 2 death in an apparent heroin overdose,

street, and \$1,300 in cash in Vineberg's apartment and music studio. Both are in the same building in Manhattan's East Village. Vineberg, 57, faces a felony

materials to suggest major drug dealing.

"Mr. Vineberg is committed to confronting his problem and is committed to treatment," said Kratt, adding that Vineberg's addiction had sapped his ability to work.

But state Supreme Court Justice Edward McLaughlin

said that in some other cases, experts have testified that considerably smaller amounts of heroin were big enough to imply a plan to sell.

"If he has no job that produces income and has \$1,300 in cash, you draw your own conclusions," McLaughlin said. □



A couple kneels outside the apartment building of actor Phillip Seymour Hoffman, after they added to the flowers placed there, in New York.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Philip Seymour Hoffman's death is an addict, and any heroin the musician allegedly had would have been largely for his own consumption, his lawyer said Friday.

But a judge expressed skepticism about viewing veteran jazz and pop sideman Robert Vineberg as just a drug user caught up in a high-profile probe.

though he isn't charged with playing a role in it. He has said he was a friend of the Academy Award-winning actor but didn't sell the heroin that authorities found in Hoffman's apartment.

As police followed a tip after Hoffman's death, they said they found about 300 small bags of heroin, worth about \$10 apiece on the

charge of possessing heroin with an intent to sell it.

His lawyer, Edward Kratt, said Vineberg has a 10-bag-a-day heroin addiction, and much of the alleged stash "clearly was for his own use."

Kratt noted that police didn't report finding scales, rubber stamps used as a drug-world branding tool, or various other packaging

US airlines cancel record number of flights

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP Airlines Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The relentless snow and ice storms in the United States this winter have led to the highest number of flight cancellations in more than 25 years, according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

U.S. airlines have canceled more than 75,000 domestic flights since Dec. 1, including more than 14,000 this week. That's 5.5 percent of the 1.37 million flights scheduled during that period, according to calculations based on information provided by flight tracking site FlightAware.

It's the highest total number and highest percent of U.S. cancellations since at least the winter of 1987-1988, when the Department of Transportation first started collecting cancellation data.

America's air traffic system was still recovering Friday from the latest bout of bad weather. Flights were taking off again but thousands of passengers weren't.

"This year is off to a brutal start for airlines and travelers," says FlightAware CEO Daniel Baker. "Not only is each storm causing tens of thousands of cancellations, but there's been a lot of them."

Mother Nature isn't entirely to blame. A mix of cost-cutting measures and new government regulations has made airlines more likely to cancel flights and leave fliers scrambling to get to their destination.

There were days this week where more than 70 percent of flights were canceled in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Washington D.C. and Charlotte, North Carolina. Even typically warm — or at least warmer — weather cities were not immune. The world's busiest airport, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, was paralyzed Wednesday by ice and snow. □

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For snowbound elderly in suburbs, a season of isolation

JOSEPH BERGER
LISA W. FODERARO
 © 2014 New York Times
YONKERS, N.Y. - On Thursday morning, Tambudzai Marino, a nurse who makes house calls for the Visiting

side streets, even braving the hills of this Hudson River city, then getting stuck and reversing gears and finding flatter routes, finally slogging by foot along the last quarter-mile. All so she

had never seen snow until she arrived in the area 10 years ago) not only treated Weston's foot with an antibiotic ointment to prevent sepsis and checked his vital signs, but also brought him

Some elderly and infirm, like Weston, have been isolated by the unrelenting snow, unable to get out of their homes to take those coveted expeditions to buy a container of milk or just breathe some fresh air. That isolation can be particularly acute in some New York City suburbs, where care or company often arrives only when caregivers are able to navigate the often-treacherous roads. Weston, a former New York police officer who went to high school in Brooklyn and at 69 has long used a wheelchair after having strokes, is stoic about spending so much time in his apartment alone.

"I was born alone, I'll die alone," he said, his speech awkward because of the strokes. "In between if I get company I appreciate it." But Edith Kling, 85, of Congers, in Rockland County, who is blind but likes to go out with an aide to do an errand or walk her yellow Labrador, Frances, described being snowbound with a bit more tartness. "It's more or less like being in a minimum-security prison," she said. "It's truly grim to be in the house for four weeks with constant snow." The snowfall Thursday of 9 inches or more made the most ordinary tasks hard for everyone. At Smoochie Poochies in Scarsdale, N.Y., Stephanie Ranalli, a manager, decided at 6 a.m. Thursday not to dispatch her army of nearly 20 dog walkers because of safety concerns. It was the second time this winter that she had asked them to stand down.

"I wouldn't want any human being to get hurt because they had to walk a dog," Ranalli said. "I try to reach our clients early enough so they can make other arrangements. The good thing is that people usually stay home if it's this bad out."

House cleaners, grocery clerks, home-health aides and others in the suburbs who rely on bus systems to get to work - the Bee-Line buses in Westchester County stopped running

at 7 p.m. Thursday - have sometimes been stranded. Perhaps surprisingly, the maternity floors at White Plains Hospital Center did not have a spike in C-sections or induced deliveries by expectant mothers hoping to have their babies before the storm, a spokeswoman, Eliza O'Neill, said.

"On the contrary, the labor and delivery unit has been very quiet in the last couple of days," she said. But some people who rely on visits by nurses and aides had to make do on their own. After Marino's morning ordeal - a trip from her home in Mamaroneck to Yonkers that usually takes a half-hour took almost two hours - she canceled visits to patients in Westchester and the Bronx whose medical issues were less urgent than Weston's. Two told her not to come because it was not safe to drive. So she asked them, as she did with Weston: "Do you have enough food in the house to last until the snow is over? Is your cellphone charged? Who will you call in an emergency?" She seemed satisfied they could manage for the day. Mary Gadomski, the director of community education for Visiting Nurse Service, said the agency had a "priority system" for dispatching its staff of 200 nurses to its 1,500 daily patients. "When a patient needs a visit - for diabetes monitoring, change of dressing, congestive heart failure, a cancer treatment - we absolutely have to get there," she said. "Even if it's Hurricane Sandy, we have to do it."

The elderly who rely on ambulettes to take them to day centers where they can get a meal, play cards and schmooze also had to make do without.

Bridget Gallagher, senior vice president of community services for Jewish Home Lifecare, said its three centers in Manhattan, the Bronx and Mamaroneck, which serve roughly 300 seniors, were closed because transporting clients in ambulettes was considered too risky.



Tambudzai Marino, a visiting nurse, treats Selwyn Weston's foot at his home while a heavy snow storm hits outside in Yonkers, N.Y., Feb. 13, 2014. Unrelenting snow has left some elderly and infirm in the towns just outside New York City unable to get out of their homes, and treacherous roads have made it hard to reach them.

(Suzy Allman/The New York Times)

Nurse Service of Westchester, was weaving and skidding her car around icy, slushy mounds on clogged highways and unplowed

could change bandages on Selwyn Weston's ulcerated right foot. Marino (who is from Zambia, in tropical Africa, and

something perhaps more precious in this season of too many snowstorms: a human face, voice and touch.



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US Financial Front:

Cold weather causes American factory output to drop



Workers assemble ovens at the Electrolux home cooking appliance factory in Memphis, Tenn. The Federal Reserve released industrial production data for January on Friday, Feb. 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Adrian Sainz)

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Harsh winter weather led to a steep drop in U.S. factory output in January. Manufacturers made fewer cars

and trucks, appliances, furniture and carpeting, as the recent cold spell ended five straight months of increased production. The Federal Reserve said factory production

plunged 0.8 percent in January, reversing gains of 0.3 percent in both December and November. Automakers lost days of production because of snowstorms, as their production plummet-

ed 5.1 percent, the report said.

Factory output rose a modest 1.3 percent over the past 12 months.

Overall industrial production, which includes manufacturing, mining and utilities, fell 0.3 percent in January. Output for utilities rose 4.1 percent last month as the freezing temperatures boosted heating demand. Factories responded to the weather by running at a lower 76 percent capacity, a 0.7 percentage point drop over the month and 2.7 percentage points below the long-run average.

The repeated battery of winter storms has slowed down the pace of economic growth, ending momentum that has boosted gross domestic product in the second half of last year. Cold weather last month delayed shipments of raw materials and caused some factories to shut down.

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, reported earlier this month

that its index of manufacturing activity fell to 51.3 in January from 56.5 in December. It was the lowest reading since May, although any reading above 50 signals growth.

Factory orders also fell 1.5 percent in December, according to the Commerce Department. That could have contributed to less output in January.

The figures suggest that U.S. manufacturing is slowing after strong gains at the end of last year. Auto sales approached 15.6 million last year but buying has since decelerated. Businesses are spending cautiously on machinery and other large factory goods. The slowdown means that economic growth in the first three months of this year will probably come in significantly below the strong 3.6 percent annual pace in the second half of 2013.

The economic forecaster Macroeconomic Advisers projected Thursday that growth this quarter would be 1.7 percent. □

US issues road map to banks on handling marijuana business

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government is giving banks a road map for doing business with marijuana sellers.

It's another step toward enabling a legalized marijuana industry to operate in the United States.

The Justice and Treasury departments issued new guidance on Friday.

It's intended to increase availability of financial ser-

vices for legal marijuana businesses.

But it still preserves the government's power to enforce criminal laws.

The guidance comes after Washington and Colorado became the first states in the nation to approve recreational use of marijuana. A citizens' group is hoping to make Alaska the third state to do so. □

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Comcast-TWC merger has US consumers worried

RYAN NAKASHIMA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cable subscribers don't give Comcast and Time Warner Cable good grades when it comes to customer satisfaction. So after Comcast announced its \$45 billion purchase of Time Warner Cable Thursday, it didn't take long for consumers to start venting their frustrations over high prices, spotty service and fears of a monopoly.

The pairing of the nation's two biggest cable companies spurred a cascade of sarcastic tweets and satirical memes in which people likened the new entity to the killer Death Star battle station from "Star Wars" and the evil Eye of Sauron from "The Lord of the Rings."

Some people recalled a "South Park" snippet in which character Eric Cartman and friends are tormented by cable employees before a logo curiously similar to Time Warner Cable's own.

The jokes reflect a more

serious sentiment among consumers. J.D. Power said in September that in multiple surveys about pay TV service that it conducted

over the previous year, Comcast and Time Warner Cable ranked below the industry average in every region of the country.

customer frustration, according to America Customer Satisfaction Index managing director David VanAmburg. Cable companies

tries the ACSI covered.

It's no wonder that many consumers were skeptical about the benefits of the deal to them.

Michael Pinto, a 48-year-old Time Warner Cable customer in the borough of Brooklyn in New York City, said a lot of people in the city are trapped into whatever service happens to run into their building that the landlord allows. He worries that a lot of creativity could be stifled if control of Internet and TV service is consolidated into too few hands.

"I suppose it's good news for shareholders. You get a bigger, growing company with smaller cost structures," said Pinto, a website designer and chief creative officer at Very Memorable Inc.

"But I think as a democracy — not just a democracy in politics but in a creative sense — I wonder what new channels are we missing out on?"

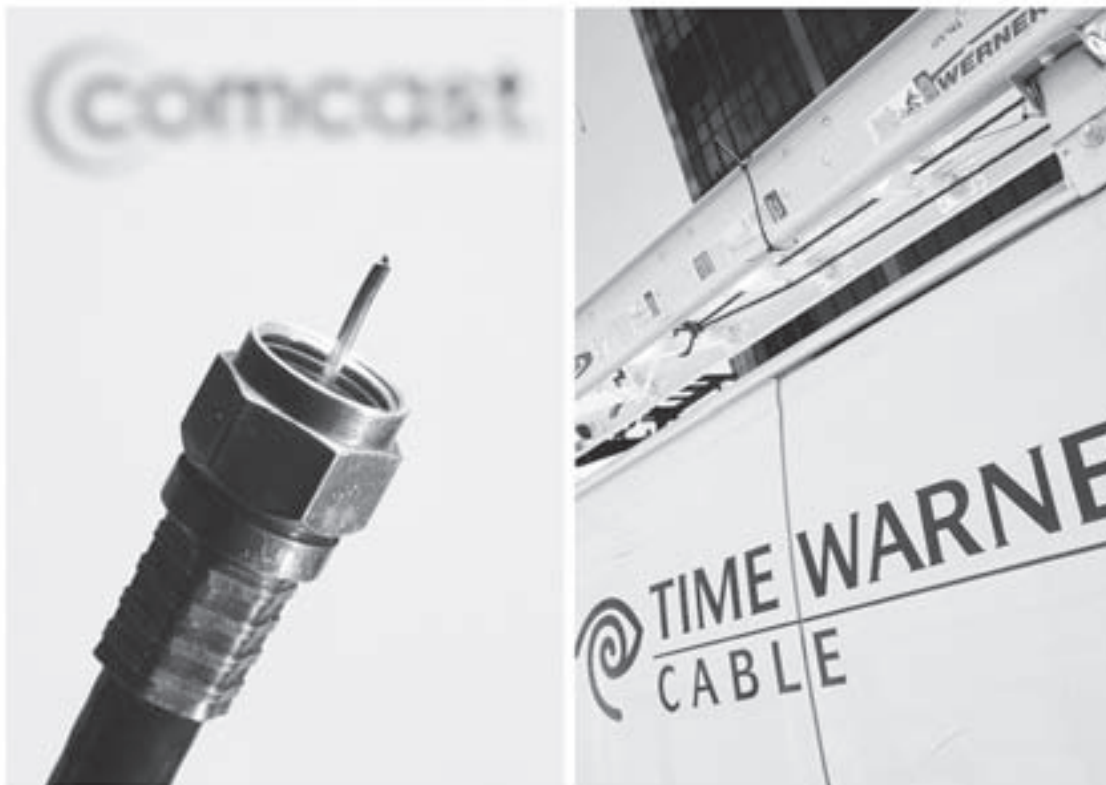
Another Brooklyn resident, 24-year-old Veronica de Souza, says her yearlong experience with Time Warner Cable has been "a nightmare" for her and her three roommates. She expects that under a merger, their TV and Internet service "will only get worse." Several of them work from home so a consistent, fast Internet connection is a necessity.

The competition is weak, particularly because Verizon offers only Internet, not TV service, in her area.

Their Internet connection has gone down several times, and when she's called for help she's been made to wait 20 minutes or more for a live person. "They don't feel an obligation to hurry up and fix things when they're broken," said de Souza, social media editor at the website, Digg.

What's worse is she knows a friend who happens to live in a rare area served by both Time Warner Cable and Cablevision. Her friend told her it was like hitting the "jackpot."

"Both offered her a cheaper price than anyone else to pick them," she said. □



In this combination of Associated Press photos, a coaxial cable is displayed in front of the Comcast Corp. logo in Philadelphia, and a Time Warner Cable truck is parked in New York. Comcast Corp. officially announced Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014, that it is buying Time Warner Cable Inc. for \$45.2 billion in stock. The deal combines two of the nation's top pay TV and Internet service companies and makes Comcast, which also owns NBCUniversal, a dominant force in both creating and delivering entertainment to U.S. homes.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)



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Time Warner Cable ranked dead last among providers in every region but the West. The telecommunications industry as a whole places 9th out of 10, above only utilities.

The acquisition means Comcast will serve more than 30 million TV and Internet subscribers.

The company said the deal will allow it to boost Internet speeds and reliability, spread its latest Internet-connected set-top boxes over more homes and help save it money on TV programming costs. Comcast CEO Brian Roberts said the combination will be "pro-consumer and pro-competitive."

Comcast's expected argument before antitrust regulators: Comcast and Time Warner Cable don't directly compete with each other in any region. Therefore, the deal won't reduce competition and should be approved.

But it is that lack of overlap, and absence of choice, which is at the root of cus-

that purposely don't compete against each other to provide fast Internet or reliable TV service can get away with not fully meeting customer needs in markets where they dominate. "It's almost subconsciously built into their business model that they don't have to worry so much you're going to leave for a competitor," said VanAmburg. "It's definitely a big factor." That sense of complacency shows up in consumer surveys.

In the ACSI's annual survey of consumer sentiment toward 240 companies, Time Warner Cable as a TV provider ranked second to last, beating out only the Long Island Power Authority.

As an Internet service provider, it came sixth from the bottom. Comcast's TV and Internet service ranked 233rd and 236th respectively.

As industries, subscription TV services and Internet service providers rank 44th and 45th out of 45 indus-



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Kerry talks North Korea, regional tensions in China

MATTHEW LEE
AP Diplomatic Writer

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Friday he had won a commitment from China to help bring a belligerent North Korea back to nuclear disarmament talks, even as he butted heads with Chinese leaders over a series of increasingly aggressive steps Beijing has taken to assert itself in territorial disputes with its smaller neighbors.

Kerry met with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other senior officials as he sought to underscore the Obama administration's commitment to refocusing U.S. foreign policy on the Asia-Pacific region amid myriad other global priorities. He addressed issues ranging from climate change, human rights and rule of law, to Syria and Iran with his Chinese hosts. Speaking to reporters following those talks, Kerry praised China for joining with the U.S. in calling for North Korea to dismantle its nuclear programs and said he urged Beijing to "use every tool at its disposal" to convince its communist neighbor to return to the long-stalled disarmament talks.

North Korea "must take meaningful, concrete and irreversible steps toward verifiable denuclearization, and it needs to begin now," Kerry said. "China could not have more forcefully reiterated its commitment to that goal, its interest in achieving that goal and its concerns about not achieving that goal."

Kerry said the Chinese officials had told him they were willing to take additional steps to achieve North Korean denuclearization and that both sides had traded ideas for further consideration. He did not elaborate

on what those steps were, but a day earlier in South Korea had suggested they could involve reductions in commercial and energy trade between China and North Korea.

Chinese Foreign Minister

Wang Yi, meanwhile, said China would never allow chaos or war on the Korean Peninsula.

"China is serious on this, as shown not only in our words but in our actions," Wang said, according to the of-

ficial Xinhua News Agency. While China is North Korea's only significant ally and main source of economic assistance, the extent of China's influence, and willingness to use it, is unclear following a purge in the isolated country's leadership.

Diplomats say Beijing received no prior warning ahead of the December arrest and execution of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's uncle, Jang Song Thaek, who had been considered Pyongyang's point man on China affairs and was a strong promoter of free trade zones being set up along their mutual border.

That came on the heels of Pyongyang's snubbing of Beijing's wishes when it conducted a missile test in late 2012, followed by the underground detonation of a nuclear device last spring. □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China Friday, Feb. 14, 2014. Kerry is meeting senior Chinese officials on Friday in Beijing to seek their help in bringing a belligerent North Korea back to nuclear disarmament talks.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci, Pool)

Russia tells Syrian opposition to join terror fight

ANNE BARNARD
© 2014 New York Times

GENEVA - Russian officials accused the Syrian opposition's Western backers on Friday of focusing solely on "regime change" and said the government would only discuss political transition if its opponents agreed on a joint fight with the government against terrorism. The declarations - unlikely to produce compromise because the government tends to define all its armed opponents, including those backed by the opposition

delegation here, as terrorists - added to the state of suspense at peace talks which so far have produced no progress.

The negotiations this week were the second round and there is now uncertainty over whether there will be a third.

The statements came a day after a meeting of Russian, U.S. and U.N. officials failed to produce a consensus on how to unblock the talks and push the parties toward substantive negotiations.

The mood has grown increasingly grim here after a week of meetings produced no agreement even on an agenda, a failure that U.N. mediator Lakhdar Brahimi, in unusually blunt comments at Thursday's meeting, blamed squarely on the Syrian government, according to two Western diplomats.

Brahimi, they said, complained that the Syrian delegation had refused to even touch, let alone read, a 24-point plan presented by the opposition

on Wednesday on how to structure a political transition for Syria.

Instead, they said, the government delegates left the paper on the table and walked away.

The opposition delegates have agreed to a compromise agenda that would simultaneously address their top priority - the formation of a fully empowered transitional governing body "by mutual consent" - and that of the government, ending violence and terrorism in Syria. □

Eurozone recovery accelerates but jobs elusive

JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Europe's economy is growing faster, raising hopes for a sustainable recovery, but that may not be enough to bring sky-high levels of unemployment down any time soon.

The economy of the euro bloc grew 0.3 percent in the October-December period from the previous quarter, the Eurostat statistics office said Friday. That was slightly more than expected and up from the third quarter's 0.1 percent. The recovery remains tepid, however, at least by global standards. The eurozone's annualized rate of about 1.2 percent is less than half the U.S.'s 3.2 percent rate during the same period.

"While still far from dynamic, it is a step back in the right direction," said analyst Howard Archer of IHS

Global Insight.

The eurozone is central to the global economy as Europeans are big buyers of goods from the United States and Asia. Uncertainty over the bloc's future in recent years weighed on growth and corporate earnings around the world. Here's a look at the eurozone economy's vital signs: One of the biggest economic problems facing Europe is unemployment, particularly among the young in those countries at the forefront of the region's debt crisis.

The eurozone economy emerged from recession last year as its financial crisis eased, but employers haven't started hiring much. The unemployment rate has remained around 12 percent since late 2012. As well as creating uncertainty in households and stifling consumer spending,

unemployment is a burden to a country's coffers as the government pays benefits and misses out on tax revenue from payrolls and economic activity.

That pain is not shared evenly across the eurozone, however.

While unemployment in Germany is near record lows around 5 percent, it has jumped to massive levels in countries struggling with debt. In Greece, it has reached a staggering 28 percent, and about 25 percent in Spain. The situation among the young is even worse — in Greece, almost 60 percent of those under 25 were out of work.

"Even if the fourth quarter's slightly faster rate of growth is sustained, it will be many years before the record number of eurozone unemployed can be put back to work," said Bill Adams, an analyst with PNC. □



The new headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB), building at right, is under construction on the water front of the River Main, in Frankfurt, Germany, Friday, Feb. 14, 2014. The ECB is supposed to move into this new building at the end of 2014. The fourth quarter financial growth for 2013 outperformed analysts' expectations and eased some of the pressure on the European Central Bank to loosen its monetary policy.

(AP Photo/Michael Probst)

Nigeria: billions of petrodollars missing

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria's Senate is ordering a forensic audit to track down billions of missing petrodollars. The Central Bank last year reported nearly \$50 billion worth of oil sold by the state oil corporation had not been paid to the government. In December the Finance Ministry report-

ed it had accounted for all but \$10.8 billion.

The Senate Committee on Finance heard Thursday that the unaccounted amount has grown to \$20 billion. Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told senators the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. has produced receipts to ac-

count for the \$10.8 billion. Committee chairman Sen. Ahmed Makarfi concluded they did not have the expertise to unravel the mystery and said senators are ordering an audit by legal experts. Corruption and mismanagement are rife in Africa's biggest oil producer. □

Thousands of Muslims try to flee Central African Republic capital

JEROME DELAY
KRISTA LARSON
Associated Press

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP) — Thousands of Muslims who tried to flee the violence in Central African Republic's capital were turned back by peacekeepers Friday, as crowds of angry Christians shouted "we're going to kill you all."

The convoy was turned back as France announced it would send 400 more soldiers to its former colony mired in unprecedented sectarian fighting.

Some cars carried as many as 10 people as the convoy made its way through Bangui, the second such mass exodus in a week. Christians gathered alongside the road to taunt the Muslims, many of whom have been targeted by murderous mobs in recent weeks.

But the convoy, which stretched as far as the eye could see, was turned back because peacekeepers feared it would be attacked when going through some volatile parts of Bangui.

The procession of vehicles was halted in the Miskine neighborhood, where one vehicle tumbled into a ditch on the side of the road. On the orders of a Burundian captain, African peacekeepers went vehicle-to-vehicle instructing everyone to return to a local mosque, according to an Associated Press journalist at the scene.

Peacekeepers stopped the group before they passed through neighborhoods where fresh fighting had erupted Friday. At least one person was killed there in a grenade attack by Christian militiamen, according to witnesses at a nearby mosque. French peacekeepers had to evacuate two other severely wounded people from an angry crowd that had set tires on fire and was shouting anti-Muslim and anti-French slogans.

"The convoy escorted by Burundian forces returned to its departure point because of a problem in a neighborhood on the north end of the city where the Muslims would have had to pass through," said Lt. Rosana Nsengimana with the African peacekeeping force known as MISCA.

Tens of thousands of Muslims have fled for their lives as Christian militiamen and crowds of angry civilians have stepped up their attacks in recent weeks. Muslims have been killed by mobs almost every day and their bodies have been mutilated and dragged through the capital's streets, despite the presence of peacekeepers.

Victims have been accused of supporting the Muslim Seleka government forced from power last month. The Seleka rebels cited economic and political grievances, not religious ideology, in overthrowing the president of a decade. However, they became deeply despised and their armed fighters are accused of scores of human rights abuses against the country's Christian majority during their 10-month rule.

The violence against Muslims and their current exodus from Central African Republic is tantamount to "ethnic cleansing," according to warnings issued earlier this week by a top United Nations official and Amnesty International. The head of the French mission in Central African Republic has called the Christian militiamen an "enemies of the peace," even though they started out as a way to protect Christians against the attacks by Muslim rebels.

Before the crisis, Muslims made up about 15 percent of Central African Republic's 4.6 million people. Entire neighborhoods of Bangui are now empty. Only one mosque now remains in the town of Yaloke, where previously there had been eight, according to Human Rights Watch. Most of the displaced Muslims have headed to Chad, a neighboring country that is predominantly Muslim and whose military has provided armed guards for departing convoys. □

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Police kill eight Uighurs; China cites terrorism

CHRIS BUCKLEY
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HONG KONG - Police in Xinjiang, the ethnically divided region in far western China, fatally shot eight people on Friday after what the state-run news media described as an attack by assailants armed with bombs made from gas cylinders. Three other attackers died in an explosion they set off, the reports said.

The official accounts did not identify the bombers, but it was clear that they were Uighurs, a Turkic people who have grown increasingly resentful of the growing numbers of ethnic Han Chinese in the region and of state controls on their culture and Muslim religion.

The accounts called the assailants terrorists, as have many previous official reports describing clashes with Uighurs.

The violence erupted in Wushi County, in Aksu prefecture, when people riding motorbikes and a person driving a car loaded with natural-gas cylinders bore down on police officers preparing to go on patrol, according to Xinhua, the state-run news agency. The attackers also used knives, according to Tianshan Net, an official Xinjiang news portal. Wushi is called Uqatpan by Uighurs.

"In the course of responding, the public security police shot dead eight people and captured one," said the report from Tianshan Net. □

Indonesia volcano erupts; 100K evacuated

NINIEK KARMINI
 Associated Press
 SUGIHWARAS, Indonesia (AP) —

A powerful volcanic eruption on Indonesia's most populous island blasted ash and debris 18 kilometers (12 miles) into the air Friday, killing three people and forcing authorities to evacuate more than 100,000 and close seven airports.

The eruption of Mount Kelud on Java island could be

Ash and grit fell to earth in towns and cities across the region, including Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city after Jakarta, with a population of about 3 million. It also fell farther afield in Yogyakarta, where motorists switched on headlights in daylight. Workers attempted to cover the famed ninth century Buddhist temple complex of Borobudur with plastic sheeting to protect it.

the volcanic ash reached 20 centimeters (8 inches) deep in some places.

The large international airport in Surabaya and airports in the cities of Malang, Yogyakarta, Solo, Bandung, Semarang and Cilacap were closed due to reduced visibility and the dangers posed to aircraft engines by ash, Transport Ministry spokesman Bambang Ervan said. Virgin Australia said it canceled

people — had been evacuated to temporary shelters, but that some were returning to their homes to begin cleaning up.

The 1,731-meter (5,680-foot) -high mountain in eastern Java — Indonesia's most densely populated island and home to more than half of the country's 240 million people — had been rumbling for several weeks and was under close observation. The mountain is about 600 kilometers (375 miles) east of Jakarta, the capital.

As night fell, the volcano continued to rumble, spewing ash high into the air, though smaller amounts than earlier.

"It seems Kelud isn't finished yet," said Retno Dwiningtyas, a mother of three who was sitting in a government shelter watching television reports of her village showing crumpled roofs, farms and broken chairs blanketed with thick gray ash. "We are afraid for our cattle, our farm."

Muhammad Hendrasto, head of Indonesia's volcano monitoring agency, said the mountain erupted violently about 90 minutes after authorities raised its alert status to the highest level. The disaster agency said it had spewed millions of cubic meters of debris into the atmosphere.

Kediri, a normally bustling town about 30 kilometers (19 miles) from the mountain, was largely deserted as residents stayed indoors to avoid the choking ash.

"The smell of sulfur and ash hung so thickly in the air that breathing was painful," said Kediri resident Insaf Wibowo. □



A woman walks on a road covered with volcanic ash following an eruption of Mount Kelud, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Friday, Feb 14, 2014. Volcanic ash from a major eruption in Indonesia shrouded a large swath of the country's most densely populated island on Friday, closed three international airports and sent thousands fleeing.

(AP Photo/Slamet Riyadi)

heard up to 200 kilometers (125 miles) away, Indonesia's disaster agency said. "The eruption sounded like thousands of bombs exploding," Ratno Pramono, a 35-year-old farmer, said as he checked his property in the village of Sugihwaras, about 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the crater. "I thought doomsday was upon us. Women and children were screaming and crying."

A 60-year-old woman and an 80-year-old man were killed in the village of Pandansari, about 7 kilometers (4 miles) from the mountain, when the roofs of their homes collapsed under the weight of the ash and volcanic debris, the disaster agency said. A 70-year-old man died after being hit by a collapsed wall while waiting to be evacuated from the same village, where

its Friday flights from Australia to several locations due to the eruption, including the resort islands of Bali in Indonesia and Phuket in Thailand.

The disaster agency said tremors were still wracking the volcano but that scientists didn't expect another major eruption. It said residents of all villages within 10 kilometers (6 miles) of Kelud — more than 100,000

Venezuela opposition fears crackdown after protest

JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Members of Venezuela's opposition warned of a coming government crackdown after authorities tried to search the offices of a political party and blamed a hard-line leader for inciting violence that led to three deaths during anti-government protests. Days after more than 10,000 people marched against President Nicolas Maduro's 10-month-old government, a swirl of rumors hung over much of Caracas Friday. A group of about 200 students occupied the city's main highway for two hours this week before re-joining a larger, peaceful protest in the city's wealthy eastern district to demand justice for a 24-year-old anti-government demonstrator who was killed Wednesday by a bullet. Demonstrations also took place in several cities around the country.

Meanwhile, local newspaper El Universal published what it said was a leaked copy of an arrest order for Leopoldo Lopez, the Harvard-trained former mayor who has been spearheading the wave of protests around the nation in recent weeks, on charges including conspiracy, murder and terrorism.

Chief federal prosecutor Luisa Ortega didn't mention an arrest order for Lopez in two statements to the press Thursday. But several Cabinet officials denounced him as the mastermind of what they called a "fas-

power.

Lopez himself hasn't been heard from since a Wednesday night press conference in which he vowed to remain in the streets to channel rising popular frustration with 56 percent inflation,

is an expected government crackdown, saying that he's consulting with aides to determine whether his arrest is being sought. Lawyers for his Popular Will party turned back a group of armed military

gresswoman Maria Corina Machado, another fiery government critic, of her parliamentary immunity from prosecution.

Human rights groups warned the government is abusing its authority and trying to intimidate opponents while blocking local and international media from reporting. In Washington, a State Department official urged Maduro's government live up to its international obligations to protect freedoms of expression and Venezuelans' right to peaceful assembly. "What Venezuela urgently needs is for these killings to be investigated and the killers brought to justice, no matter their political affiliation," Jose Miguel Vivanco, Americas director for Human Rights Watch, said in a statement. "What Venezuela does not need is authorities scapegoating political opponents or shutting down news outlets whose coverage they don't like." The international criticism showed no sign of deterring Maduro, who warned he'd severely punish anyone found conspiring against his socialist government.

He also lashed out at the international media, saying that France's AFP news agency was at the front of a campaign of "manipulation" that also included Colombia's NTN24, which the government pulled from the airwaves during its live transmission of the unrest.

Nationwide, authorities said 66 people had been seriously wounded during the past two days, including 17 members of security forces, and another 69 detained.

Lopez's allies blamed the violence on the government, charging that security forces acting on the president's orders stood by Wednesday while pro-government militia members roared up on motorcycles and attacked the small group of student protesters that lingered downtown after the biggest-ever rally against Maduro disbanded peacefully. □



Students weep during a vigil to mourn two students killed during this week's violent clashes, in Caracas, Venezuela. Some 200 students held a peaceful sit-in vigil in a Caracas plaza demanding justice for the two students, Bassil Da Costa and Robert Redman. Amid swirling rumors of an impending crackdown on dissent, Venezuela's two political camps traded blame for Wednesday's violent clashes that began when a group of pro-Maduro vigilantes roared up on motorcycles and fired guns at a small crowd of demonstrators who had been sparring with police.

(AP Photo/Alejandro Cegarra)

cist" U.S.-backed strategy to replicate the unrest that preceded the 2002 coup that briefly removed President Hugo Chavez from

rampant crime and an assault on political freedoms. Allies denied that Lopez was backing down in the face of what they warned

intelligence officers who tried to search their headquarters without a warrant. Pro-government lawmakers also vowed to strip con-

Thai police clear areas of dwindling protesters

THOMAS FULLER

© 2014 New York Times

Hundreds of Thai police officers on Friday began reclaiming intersections in Bangkok that a dwindling protest movement seized several weeks ago.

The police cleared barriers that have blocked access to ministries and stopped the government from fully functioning and vowed to clear away a faction of protesters in front of a large government complex.

Chalerm Ubumrung, a government minister overseeing security, said Thursday that the leader of the protests, Suthep Thaugsuban was "almost finished" and "nearly destroyed."

Protesters have failed to

"shut down" Bangkok as they vowed last month, but a hard core of protesters number in the thousands and remain defiant.

On Thursday, a Thai court ordered the release from detention of a prominent leader of the protest movement, a case that highlights the movement's influential backing.

Sonthiarn Chuenruethainaitham, who has been described by the Thai media as an adviser to the Crown Property Bureau, the agency that manages the huge royal fortune, was arrested Monday for his role in organizing the protests.

He was described by Tharit Pengdit, the secretary-general of Thailand's Depart-

ment of Special Investigation, as the "second-most important" person in the protest movement.

The court ruled Thursday that Sonthiyan should be released because the authorities had already obtained sufficient information from him. The government responded that it would continue to detain Sonthiyan on separate charges of rebellion.

Protesters, who are allied with the opposition Democrat Party, blocked hundreds of thousands of people from voting in the general election earlier this month and said their goal was to seize "sovereignty." They are calling for the suspension of electoral

democracy and for an appointed government on the grounds that the governing party is corrupt and has abused its majority position in Parliament.

The protests have left Thailand, the second-largest economy in Southeast Asia, with an enfeebled government and the prospect of months of deadlock. In districts where protesters blocked voting, elections have been rescheduled for April.

Although the number of protesters has gradually diminished in recent days, the anti-government movement has been encouraged by a number of rulings in the courts and state agencies. □



Following a charity road race:

The Radisson presents Casa Cuna Children's Home with a donation



PALM BEACH - More than thirty colleagues from the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa participated in a challenging and rewarding charity road race recently. The winner, Manuel Reyes, enjoyed the distinct honor of presenting a check to the representatives of his charity of choice: Casa Cuna, children's home, just

recently. The race concluded an exciting yearlong challenge in which athletic resort General Manager Mark Lyttleton Frances encouraged and coaxed members of the executive committee and staffers to get fit and trim, adhere to a healthy life-style, and daily exercise. During the year, the resort held a number of

competitions, all won by the GM, finally, in the decisive race at the end of the year, two members of the Pool & Beach department overtook him, landing the GM in third place, Chaim Alvarez in second and Manuel Reyes first, posting the best 5k result of 21:10. The much anticipated award and donation ceremony

took place at the resort. The children's home representatives accepted the donation gratefully, and the Radisson team looked considerably fitter and trimmer, a feat appreciated and praised by the GM, whose mission was accomplished. Also on the program for that afternoon an entertaining short film

shot during the GM Charity 5k Challenge, as well as the great reveal of the plans for the next race on March 29th, a longer loop around the hilly Alto Vista Chapel. Pictured here, the participants picking up their certificates, from General Manager Mark Lyttleton Frances, proud of their achievement. □



Sandra Barrero Elected Carnival Queen at La Cabana!



EAGLE BEACH - Almost all resort associates crammed into the Chit Chat Cafeteria for a joyous and raucous queen election pageant orchestrated by the dedicated and talented resort social committee. The judges, resort guests Michelle Fellcey, Mary Jan van der Werf and Charles Newton were entertained by fully costumed repre-

sentatives of the resort departments competing for the coveted Carnival sash and crown with Naisa Nuse, representing Recreation, Ismary Jacobs, representing the Front Office, Soledad Amaya, representing the Eagle Team, Willemijn Tilman representing Accounting and Gerina Villagra representing the Food & Beverage Department. The queen candidates in-



roduced themselves and their department to loud cheers from their devoted fans, and danced around the cafeteria demonstrating their Carnival spirit, escorted by other Carnival royalties Prince Henry Garcia and Pancho Antonio Fawcett. At the end of a fun hour of pageantry Helen Werleman crowned the Prins,



while Nilda Echobardo crowned the Pancho on behalf of the Social committee. Board representative Willie Mosconi crowned queen Sandra Barrero, representing the Housekeeping Department, awarding her a weekend stay at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, as well as dinner for two at the Holiday Inn Sunspree. La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino hosts regular fun events for its associates

courtesy of an extraordinary social committee with Helene, Jeanette, Nilda, Fran, Rita, Avilia, Giovanni and Damien putting their heads together to entertain their coworkers, create team spirit and a strong sense of community. Professionally emceed by Albert Groneveld the event is also grateful for the contributions of Greta de Cuba, Clara Acevedo and Errel Tromp, who worked tirelessly to make the afternoon a success.



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A Big Bugaloe Welcome Back to Erik and Angelina Belanger!

PALM BEACH- Bugaloe's guests of this week are Erik and Angelina Belanger from Boston, Mass., the "02134". Erik has been coming to Aruba for several years now but this is the first time he came together with his beautiful and lovely fiancée Angelina. Erik discovered Bugaloe years ago when, he states: 'the best bartender Ricky built it!' They love spending there day at Bugaloe having some cold Amstel Brights and listening to the live band performances. This they do together with all the friends Erik has made through the years. When the Bugaloe crew visited Boston in 2012 Erik was making sure he was the one showing them all the places to discover. Erik took the crew to the best bars, restaurants and nightclubs, with a great BBQ ending of the vacation on his outside porch! Their favorite menu item is the Ceviche that Erik tries to make back home but he still misses the last 2 ingredients. Their funniest memory of Bugaloe, behind the perfect turn-around vacation with the crew visiting him, instead of the other way around, was when they got involved in a surprise photo shoot at the end of the pier. The Bugaloe crew would like to thank Erik and Angelina for being such loyal Bugaloe guests and hope to see them more often. □



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Bae gets another crack at Riviera

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bae Sang-moon is off to another great start at the Northern Trust Open. The next step is a better finish.

Bae played bogey-free on another gorgeous day at Riviera for a 5-under 66, giving him a one-shot lead over Aaron Baddeley among the early starters. Baddeley, who won at Riviera three years ago, birdied his last four holes for a 65.

Dustin Johnson, who led after the opening round at 66, played in the afternoon.

Bae was at 9-under 133.

The 27-year-old South Korean was tied for the lead going into the weekend at Riviera last year. Bae struggled to a 76 in the third round and never got back into contention.

"It was really, really good experience, and I learned a lot," Bae said. "I improved a lot from last year."

He wound up winning the Byron Nelson Championship a few months later for his first PGA Tour victory.

Patience surely will be required at some point over the weekend on what has



Sang-Moon Bae, of South Korea, reacts to missing a long birdie putt that would have put him in a tie for the lead in the first round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014.

shaped up as one of the best weeks of weather at Riviera—an abundance of sunshine and only a trace of wind. But the course figured to get tougher for the leaders in the afternoon as the greens get more foot traffic.

"It's a strong course, especially when it's dry and firm like it is," Baddeley said. "If you miss it out of position, it's really hard to get the ball up-and-down. Today was good, because I made a couple good saves but coming in, I had some good looks and made them."

Even among those who played early, it was hard to break away. A dozen players were within five shots of the lead, with half of the field still to finish the second round.

Baddeley was in the middle of the pack until he hit his approach on the 15th hole to about 8 feet. He followed with a short birdie putt on the par-3 16th, rolled in a birdie putt from 15 feet on the par-5 17th and finished it off with a 25-foot birdie on the 18th.

Continued on Page 21

Associated Press



Boxer Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, left, poses for a photo with Timothy Bradley of Indio, Ca., the current WBO World Welterweight champion, during a press conference, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

Pacquiao, Bradley face enhanced testing in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nevada boxing regulators say Manny Pacquiao and Timothy Bradley will be subject to stepped-up drug and hormone testing before their April 12 rematch in Las Vegas.

Nevada Athletic Commission Chairman Francisco Aguilar said Friday the two welterweights will face unannounced pre-fight test-

ing handled by collectors certified by the World Anti-Doping Agency. Plans call for samples to undergo isotope-ratio mass spectrometry to detect exogenous testosterone from outside the body. Aguilar called enhanced pre-fight testing a new normal for boxing and mixed martial arts.

He credited Top Rank promoter Bob Arum with supporting the testing protocol.

Bradley (31-0, 12 KOs) and Pacquiao (55-5-2, 38 KOs) will be fighting for the WBO 147-pound title at the MGM Grand Garden arena. Bradley won a controversial split decision over Pacquiao in June 2012 in Las Vegas. □

Switzerland and Japan are big winners at Olympics



Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan competes in the men's free skate figure skating final at the Iceberg Skating Palace during the 2014 Winter Olympics, Friday, Feb. 14, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.

Associated Press

DAVID PACE

Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — A pair of skiers from Switzerland collected gold medals at the Sochi Games on Friday, and a teenager from Japan overcame a pair of falls to become the first Asian man to win an Olympic title in men's figure skating. With competitors seeking relief from the unusually warm weather on the mountain trails, Swiss skiers earned gold in the men's super-combined and the men's classical-style 15-kilometer cross-country race. The haul gave the Swiss five golds, only two behind Germany. Sandro Viletta stunned the favorites to win the super-combined. Two of the favorites, defending gold medalist Bode Miller and world champion Ted Ligety, failed to win a medal. Dario Cologna added the other gold for Switzerland and his second of the games, winning the sweat-drenched 15K race. Cologna, who had ankle surgery in November, won the 30K skiathlon on Sunday. In figure skating, 19-year-old Yuzuru Hanyu claimed the men's title, one day after Russian great Evgeni

Plushenko withdrew from the Olympics because of injury. Hanyu made a bid to take Plushenko's mantle when he became the first skater to score more than 100 points in the men's short program on Thursday. On the final night of the men's competition, however, all three medalists had flawed performances. Plushenko, who won gold in the team competition at the start of the Sochi Games, came under criticism at home about his decision to drop out, leaving Russia without a contestant in the men's finals. The outburst prompted President Vladimir Putin to come to his defense. "He really does have a big problem with his health," Putin said, according to Russian news agencies. On Day 8 of the Sochi Games, three other sports awarded medals: biathlon, freestyle skiing and skeleton.

FIGURE SKATING: Hanyu won the gold despite two falls during his free skate routine, largely because of the lead he built up with his record-setting short program. Canadian Patrick

Chan, skating after Hanyu, won the silver despite three errors. World silver medalist Denis Ten of Kazakhstan took bronze.

CROSS-COUNTRY: Sweden's Johan Olsson captured the silver, finishing 28.5 seconds behind Cologna. Another Swede, Daniel Richardsson, took bronze.

ALPINE SKIING: Viletta finished the downhill and slalom runs in a combined time of 2 minutes, 45.20 seconds. Ivica Kostelic of Croatia earned the silver and Christof Innerhofer of Italy got bronze.

BIATHLON: Darya Domracheva of Belarus earned her second gold medal of the games by winning the women's 15-kilometer individual race. Domracheva,

who also won the 12.5K pursuit three days ago, missed one target before finishing in 43 minutes, 19.6 seconds. Selina Gasparin of Switzerland finished 1:15.7 behind to take silver. Nadezhda Skardino of Belarus got the bronze.

FREESTYLE SKIING: Alla Tsuper of Belarus pulled off a stunning upset to win gold in women's aerials. Tsuper beat a field that included defending Olympic champion Lydia Lassila of Australia and two-time Olympic medalist Li Nina of China. The 34-year-old Tsuper had never finished higher than fifth in four previous Olympics. Xu Mengtao of China won silver while Lassila earned bronze.

SKELETON: Lizzy Yarnold of Britain won gold in wom-

en's skeleton, beating rival Noelle Pikus-Pace of the United States by a full second. It was Britain's first gold medal in Sochi. Winning the silver allowed Pikus-Pace to reach her goal of closing out her career with an Olympic medal. Elena Nikitina of Russia won the bronze.

CURLING: China and Britain won close games in the men's tournament to move into a three-way tie with Sweden atop the 10-country field. China beat Norway 7-5, while Britain topped Denmark 8-6.

In the women's tournament, China beat South Korea, Britain defeated Japan, Russia beat Switzerland, and Denmark topped the U.S., all but eliminating the Americans from the playoffs. □

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Durant's 43 help Thunder beat Lakers 107-103

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kevin Durant scored 19 of his 43 points in the fourth quarter and the Oklahoma City Thunder sent the undermanned Los Angeles Lakers to a record-setting seventh straight home loss with a 107-103 victory on Thursday. NBA Capsules The Thunder has a 1½-game lead over Indiana for the NBA's best record. Their 43-12 mark has equaled the best start in the franchise's 47-year history.

Chris Kaman and Wesley Johnson scored 19 points apiece for Los Angeles, and Kendall Marshall added 14 points and 17 assists. The Lakers have lost 22 of their past 27 games and are tied with Sacramento for last place in the Western Conference.

Oklahoma City is 20-7 without second-leading scorer Russell Westbrook,



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant, right, puts up a shot as Los Angeles Lakers center Robert Sacre defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

who hasn't played since getting a triple-double on Christmas Day at Madison Square Garden. Westbrook is recovering from arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

BULLS 92, NETS 76

CHICAGO (AP) — Taj Gibson scored 16 points and Carlos Boozer returned from an injury to add 15 in Chicago's victory over Brooklyn.

Boozer missed the three previous games because of a strained left calf.

Joakim Noah had 14 points and 13 rebounds for his fifth straight double-double. The Bulls (27-25) moved two games above .500 for the first time since they were 6-4 on Nov. 21. They have won four of five.

Paul Pierce led Brooklyn with 15 points in the teams' final game before the All-Star break. The Nets are 24-27, going 14-6 since Jan. 1. □

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Radwanska, Halep reach Qatar Open semifinals

SANDRA HARWITT

Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Second-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland earned a third consecutive — and fourth overall — semifinal berth at the Qatar Total Open when she quickly dispatched Yanina

Wickmayer of Belgium 6-2, 6-1 on Friday.

Radwanska, who required only 64 minutes to send Wickmayer packing, has had an easy run to the semifinals.

She had a bye in the first round, a quick two-set win over Sorana Cirstea in the



Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic serves the ball to Jelena Jankovic of Serbia during the quarterfinals of the WTA Qatar Ladies Open in Doha, Qatar, Friday, Feb. 14, 2014.

Associated Press

David Stern elected to Basketball Hall of Fame

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — David Stern is going from the NBA commissioner's office to the Hall of Fame.

The recently retired Stern was elected Friday to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and will be enshrined with the class of 2014 on Aug. 8 in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Alonzo Mourning, Tim Hardaway, Mitch Richmond, Kevin Johnson and Spencer Haywood are hoping to be part of the class. They were chosen as finalists, with the full class to be unveiled April 7 during the NCAA men's Final Four.

Stern retired on Feb. 1 after exactly 30 years as commissioner, during which he brought the league to its greatest success. Jerry Colangelo, chairman of the Hall of Fame board, said the Hall hopes to have a special spot to display a tribute to Stern.

"He deserves to be recognized in a huge way," Colangelo said.



In this Oct. 23, 2013, file photo, NBA Commissioner David Stern smiles during a news conference after an NBA board of governors meeting in New York.

Associated Press

Stern was elected by the contributors committee. Also directly elected to the Hall of Fame were Lithuania star Sarunas Marciulionis by the international committee, former Indiana Pacers coach Bob "Slick" Leonard by the ABA committee, former New York Knicks player Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton by the early African-American pioneers committee, and former Temple star Guy Rodgers by the veterans committee. □

second round, and saw Mirjana Lucic-Baroni retire early in the second set of their third round match with a lower back injury.

"I think I've been playing great tennis this week and hopefully I can keep it going tomorrow (Saturday)," Radwanska said. "The shorter the match the better for me."

Radwanska will face Simona Halep of Romania in the semifinal on Saturday.

It was sweet revenge for Halep, who needed only 52 minutes to take care of fourth-seeded Sara Errani of Italy 6-2, 6-0. She lost to Errani 6-1, 6-0 in their only other meeting at the Miami tournament last year.

It was also fortunate for Halep that the match went so quickly, because she says she is playing with a painful Achilles injury.

Fifth-seeded Jelena Jankovic used her quick-stepping style to run ragged over powerful third-seeded Petra Kvitova 6-1, 6-3 to reach her third Doha career semifinal.

"I was playing well and I was confident coming into this match," Jankovic said. "Against a top player like Kvitova you have to play your best game and I was glad I was able to do that today."

It was clear that playing long three-setters against Venus Williams in the second round and Lucie Safarova in the third round zapped Kvitova of the energy to challenge Jankovic.

"I had two great matches, so I still have something positive to take out of here," said Kvitova, who is the defending cham-

pion at next week's Dubai tournament. "I wasn't well before this and it would've been hard to lose in the first round, so I go now to Dubai with a positive feeling."

Kvitova seemed on course to rebound in the second set, taking a 2-0 and then 3-1 lead. But from there it was all Jankovic, who won the final five games to set up a semifinal date against sixth seed Angelique Kerber of Germany.

Kerber reached the Doha semifinals with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Czech qualifier Petra Cetkovska in just 50 minutes.

"The mental part is very important in a match like this," Kerber said. "I tried focusing on every point and stayed in the moment, stayed in the match."

Cetkovska was the third straight Czech opponent the hard-hitting Kerber defeated here, beating Karolina Pliskova in the second round, Klara Zakopalova in the third round and Cetkovska in the quarterfinals. If Jankovic didn't defeat Kvitova, Kerber would've been playing a fourth Czech in the semifinals.

Cetkovska, was clearly drained 24 hours after upsetting top seed and reigning Australian Open Li Na in a competitive three-set match on Thursday.

The only game Cetkovska won in the quarterfinal was when she broke Kerber's serve in the second game of the first set. □

Bae gets another crack

Continued from Page 18

Charlie Beljan, who lost in a playoff last year, had a 68 and was two shots behind. Brian Harman had a 69 and was another shot back.

Jordan Spieth managed to get in the mix, especially after he was on the cusp of leaving early. The 20-year-old Texan had tough par putts on four straight holes at the start of his round. When he finally missed one on the fourth hole for his

first bogey, he took off. Spieth birdied four of his last five holes for a 66, leaving him in the large group that was at 4-under 138.

"I putted great today, a lot of par saves on the front," Spieth said. "I could have been 4- or 5-over at the turn, and instead I was at even, so very happy with the finish. Back in contention."

Not so fortunate was Fred Couples, who had the low score in the group with Spieth and Webb Simpson until a poor finish. Couples

made double bogey on No. 5, and then made bogey on his last hole for a 72 that left him at 2-over 144, which was likely to miss the cut.

Most frustrating for Couples was a tiny cut on the tip of his left thumb that opened up to the size of a dime, making it difficult for him to hang onto the club. Couples has gone his entire Hall of Fame career without wearing a glove.

Asked if it bothered him, he said, "Yeah. I couldn't hit the ball." Couples made



Charlie Beljan reacts after missing a long putt on the 12th green during the second round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles, Friday, Feb. 14, 2014.

Associated Press

his 32nd appearance in this tournament. □

Inquiry: 3 Miami Dolphins players harassed Martin

NEW YORK (AP) — Miami Dolphins offensive lineman Jonathan Martin was subjected to “a pattern of harassment” that included racist slurs and vicious sexual taunts about his mother and sister by three teammates, according to a report ordered by the NFL. The report said Richie Incognito, who was suspended by the Dolphins in November, and fellow offensive linemen John Jerry and Mike Pouncey harassed Martin. Another offensive lineman and an assistant trainer also routinely came under attack. Neither was named in the report.

Lawyer Ted Wells released his 144-page report Friday. Wells says his inquiry found Martin was taunted and ridiculed almost daily. The report made mention of Martin having suicidal thoughts, which Incognito previously wrote about on Twitter.

After Martin left the team in October, Incognito boasted about “breaking Jmart” in a notebook the linemen used to tally fines and bonuses among themselves. When the investigation began, Incognito asked another player to destroy the book, but investigators obtained it.

The other harassed player was “subjected to homophobic name-calling and improper physical touching,” while the assistant trainer, who was born in



In this Aug. 9, 2013, file photo, Miami Dolphins center Mike Pouncey, left, guard Richie Incognito (68) and tackle Jonathan Martin (71) set up to block during the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars in Jacksonville, Fla.

Japan, was subjected to racial slurs.

“It was not difficult to conclude that the Assistant Trainer and Player A were harassed,

but the questions raised in Martin’s case were more complex, nuanced and difficult,” the report says.

Although Wells concluded that Martin was abused by three teammates, he qualified some of the assertions

in Martin’s account.

Evaluating Martin’s claims was difficult, “given his mental health issues, his possible heightened sensitivity to insults and his unusual, ‘bipolar’ friendship with Incognito,” the report said.

“Nonetheless, we ultimately concluded that Martin was indeed harassed by Incognito, who can fairly be described as the main

instigator.”

In a statement emailed by a league spokesman, the NFL did not make any mention of possible punishment stemming from the case. Wells said he doesn’t intend to comment further. The report comes about three months after Wells was retained by the league to investigate the case, which prompted a national debate about hazing and

workplace bullying.

Incognito is white. Martin’s father is black and his mother is white.

Martin told investigators Incognito joked that he and other teammates would rape Martin’s sister, a medical student none of them had ever met.

Incognito also called Martin various racial slurs, made jokes about slavery and routinely demeaned Martin for not being “black enough.”

The report said Pouncey and Jerry followed Incognito’s lead.

“To a great extent, Incognito dictated the culture,” the report said. “We doubt that matters would have gotten so out of hand had Incognito not set a tone on the offensive line that made extremely vulgar taunting a typical form of communication.”

Martin abruptly left the team Oct. 28.

He was briefly hospitalized and then joined his family in California and underwent counseling for emotional issues. Incognito was barred from the season’s last eight games.

Incognito expressed regrets about the racist and profane language he used with Martin, but said it stemmed from a culture of locker-room “brotherhood,” not bullying.

The NFL Players Association, which conducted its own investigation into what happened in Miami. □

Associated Press

NFL commissioner made \$44.2 million in 2012

NEW YORK (AP) — NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell made \$44.2 million in 2012, according to tax returns the league has submitted. Goodell earned \$35.1 million in salary, bonus and pension compensation. Based on Internal Revenue Service reporting guidelines, his total 2012 compensation includes a \$5 million incentive payment and a \$4.1 million pension payment from the 2011 lockout

year that was paid in 2012. The league’s revenues have approached \$10 billion and its TV ratings dominate all other programming.

“Commissioner Goodell’s compensation reflects the value of his leadership and the success of the NFL at the highest levels,” said Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank, a member of the league’s compensation committee. “His significant

accomplishments continue to strengthen our game, our business and our leading position in the sports industry.”

League general counsel Jeff Pash was second on the list of executives’ pay with \$7.86 million, and he had \$1.23 million in deferred compensation. Executive vice president Eric Grubman was at \$4.243 million, with another \$527,000 deferred. □



In this Jan. 19, 2014, file photo, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell walks on the field before the NFL football NFC Championship game between the Seattle Seahawks and the San Francisco 49ers in Seattle.

Associated Press

What Facebook knows about love, in numbers

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With 1.23 billion users in all the flavors and up-and-down stages of romantic relationships, Facebook knows a thing or two about love.

For example, two people who are about to enter a relationship interact more and more on Facebook in the weeks leading up to making their coupled status official — up until 12 days before the start of the relationship, when they share an average of 1.67 posts per day.

Then, their Facebook interactions start to decline — presumably because they are spending more time together offline. But while they interact less, couples are more likely to express positive emotions toward their each other once they are in a relationship, researchers on Facebook's data science team found. Touching on everything from religion to age differences, Facebook has been disclosing such light-hearted findings in a series of blog posts this week, with one coming up later Friday and another, on breakups, Saturday. Friday, of course, is Valentine's Day.

Facebook data scientist Mike Develin, whose background is in mathematics, notes that the relationship stuff is sort a side project for his team, the findings geared more toward aca-

demic papers than Facebook's day-to-day business. His "day job" is Facebook's search function — how people use it, what they are searching for that isn't available and how to make it more useful.

But the patterns Facebook's researchers can detect help illustrate just how useful the site's vast trove of data can be in mapping human interactions and proving or disproving assumptions about relationships. Can horoscopes predict lasting love? Forget about it.

"We have such a wide-ranging set of data, including on places there may not be data on otherwise," Develin said, adding that because Facebook knows a lot about people's authentic identity, there are "almost no boundaries" to the kinds of questions the researchers can explore — about the structure of society, culture and how people interact.

Someday, researchers studying Facebook data may be able to predict whether a couple will break up, learn whether people are happy together or see what makes relationships last. Of course, the data has its limits — not everyone is on Facebook and not every Facebook user shares everything on the site.

Still, people share quite a bit. When looking at breakups through the lens



In this Sunday, May 13, 2012, file photo, flowers are added to a Facebook sign in front of Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

of changed relationship statuses (see: "Joe Doe is single"), the researchers found couples who split up and got back together — and dutifully documented it on Facebook — 10 or 15 times a year. The maximum, Develin, recalls, was a couple who went in and out of a relationship 27 times in one year. While one may assume that a couple wouldn't want to broadcast so much relationship drama to the world, people actually "very faithfully update Facebook at each twist and turn," he says. Facebook's researchers use aggregated, anonymized data from hundreds

of millions of users on the site. This means that while they see information such as age, location, gender, a person's relationship status, for example, such data is not tied back to a specific person.

It was in a study of 18 million anonymized Facebook posts exchanged by 462,000 Facebook couples that researchers delved into how "sweet" couples are to one another on the social networking site.

"For each timeline interaction, we counted the proportion of words expressing positive emotions (like 'love,' 'nice,' 'happy,' etc.) minus the proportion

of words expressing negative ones (like 'hate,' 'hurt,' 'bad,' etc.)," writes Facebook data scientist Carlos Diuk in Friday's blog post. The data is plotted on a graph, which shows a visible, general increase in the proportion of warm fuzzy feelings right at the start of a relationship. □



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Stocks have their best week so far this year

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market is closing out its best week of the year as investors react to better earnings from U.S. companies.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose eight points, or 0.5 percent, to close at 1,838 Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 126 points, or 0.8 percent, to 16,154.

The Nasdaq composite edged up three points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,244.

Campbell Soup rose 4 percent after the company reported that its latest quarterly profit and revenue came in above Wall Street's expectations.

Weight Watchers International plunged 25 percent after reporting a big drop in earnings.

The S&P 500 index climbed 2.3 percent this week, the biggest gain so far this year. Investors liked what they heard earlier in the week from incoming Federal Reserve Chair Janet

Yellen.

Men's Wearhouse dropped \$2.11, or 4.5 percent, to \$44.43, after Jos. A. Bank

said that it was buying the parent company of Eddie Bauer. Harsh winter weather led to a steep drop in

peting, as the recent cold spell ended five straight months of increased production. The Federal Re-

ceived and November.

Investors were also encouraged by a pickup in economic growth in Europe. The bloc of countries that use the euro grew 0.3 percent in the final three months of last year, suggesting that the recovery is getting a foothold, both in the larger economies like Germany and weaker ones like Italy.

An improving economy in Europe "is an important removal of a possible negative for 2014," said Jim Russell, a regional investment director at US Bank. "Europe will continue to make gradual headway this year." Stocks have rebounded in February after falling at the start of the year on concern about the outlook for growth in China and other emerging markets. Concern about the U.S. economy also shook the stock market. The S&P 500 has pared its decline for the year to 0.8 percent after falling close to 6 percent at the start of February. □



In this image provided by the NYSE, Shutterstock's Chief Technology Officer, James Chou, joined by members of the company's leadership team and Fast Company's Associate Editor, J.J. McCorvey rings the opening bell at The New York Stock Exchange in New York City.

(AP Photo/NYSE, Ben Hider)

Clothiers, which Men's Wearhouse had been pursuing, announced a deal of its own. Jos. A. Bank

U.S. factory output in January. Manufacturers made fewer cars and trucks, appliances, furniture and car-

serve said factory production plunged 0.8 percent in December, reversing gains of 0.3 percent in both De-

Japan net retailer Rakuten to buy Viber for \$900M

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Rakuten Inc. is buying Cyprus-based Viber Media, which operates a popular Internet phone application, for \$900 million, fortifying the online retailer's social networking footprint.

The Tokyo-based company said Friday it sees Viber, with 280 million global users, as a key platform as people are moving from TVs and computers to mobile devices to consume and enjoy content.

Rakuten, which competes with Amazon.com and Yahoo, has been successful with online shopping in Japan, where it is the top Internet retailer.

But it is eager to expand in scope as well as outside Japan.

Rakuten already has under its wing online scrapbook site Pinterest and Canadian e-book maker Kobo Inc.

Rakuten founder and president Hiroshi Mikitani said



Rakuten Inc., Chief Executive Hiroshi Mikitani gives a pep talk in English, the standard language at Rakuten, at a welcoming ceremony for new hires at its headquarters in Tokyo. Rakuten is buying Cyprus-based Viber Media, which operates a popular Internet phone application, for \$900 million, fortifying the online retailer's social networking footprint.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

Viber could also become a platform for games and instant messaging. That may be appealing for Rakuten's

online shoppers who want to communicate directly with online stores or other customers.

Serkan Toto, a game consultant in Tokyo, noted the intense competition in chat-based services such

as Line, which dominates in Japan, as well as WhatsApp, Facebook's messenger and Kakao Talk.

"I'm doubtful," he said. "It will be an uphill battle."

Line, initially a hit with youngsters is becoming mainstream, increasingly used by teams within companies for its group-chat function, he said.

Rakuten also announced its earnings for the fiscal year ended Dec. 31.

Its profit doubled from 2012 to 43.5 billion yen (\$427 million). Sales of 518.6 billion yen (\$5.1 billion) were up nearly 30 percent from the previous year.

The company said its cloud services and call services for smartphones were strong last year.

Also boosting results were the Rakuten Ichiba shopping mall, its credit-card and travel services, as well as its professional baseball club Rakuten Eagles — the former team of pitcher Masahiro Tanaka, now a New York Yankee. □

China's auto sales growth dips in Jan.

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China's auto sales growth tumbled to 7 percent in January amid an economic slowdown and curbs imposed to fight smog and traffic. Drivers in the world's biggest auto market bought 1.85 million passenger vehicles, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers said Friday. It was the first time monthly sales surpassed 1.8 million.

Auto sales growth is forecast to decelerate sharply from last year's 15.7 percent expansion to about 8 to 10 percent. Sales grew 17 percent in December. Chinese leaders see auto manufacturing as a driver of economic development. But rapid growth has left Beijing, Shanghai and other major cities choking on smog. Some cities have responded by limiting the number of new vehicle registrations.

Zhang Xin, an industry analyst for Guotai Jun'an Securities, said the figures were "pretty good" despite the decline from December's double digit growth.

"Sales probably were boosted by rumors of sales restrictions in some big cities. The longer the rumors last, the better sales will be."

China's auto market is the world's most crowded, with major global automakers and dozens of small Chinese brands jostling for sales. Intense competition is squeezing indigenous Chinese automakers that have less advanced technology, especially as sales growth slows.

Earlier, General Motors Co. said sales of GM-brand vehicles by the company and its Chinese partners in January rose 12 percent to a monthly record of 348,061. Ford Motor Co. said sales rose 53 percent over a year earlier to 94,466 vehicles. BMW AG, Europe's biggest luxury automaker, said deliveries in China rose 22.2 percent to 37,137 vehicles. Nissan Motor Co. said sales of Nissan vehicles by the company and its local partners were off 0.4 percent at 95,200. □

Jos. A. Bank buying Eddie Bauer in \$825M deal

MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

Jos. A. Bank Clothiers Inc. is buying the parent company of Eddie Bauer in a cash-and-stock deal valued at \$825 million that will help strengthen its men's wear business and diversify its offerings. The deal comes as Jos. A. Bank is being pursued by rival Men's Wearhouse Inc. Men's Wearhouse said in a statement that it will consult with its legal and financial advisers to evaluate its

buy Everest Holdings LLC, Eddie Bauer's parent company. Everest Topco is part of Golden Gate Capital. Jos. A. Bank said it has been identifying possible acquisition candidates over the past two years and that Eddie Bauer was one of the first buyout targets it considered. Eddie Bauer, founded in 1920, sells men's and women's clothing and accessories. Its 2013 revenue is estimated to be between \$885 million and \$895 million.

ings of \$3.20 to \$3.40 per share. Jos. A. Bank anticipates 2015 revenue of more than \$2.2 billion for the combined company, with adjusted earnings in a range of \$4.65 to \$4.90 per share, including the impact of \$25 million of savings. But even as it announced the deal, Jos. A. Bank said it may end the deal if it receives an acquisition offer for its company that it feels is superior. It would have to pay a termination fee if it accepted a superior of-

based retailer said that the Eddie Bauer transaction includes \$564 million in cash and about 4.7 million new shares of Jos. A. Bank stock issued to Everest Topco at \$56 per share. The final share count is subject to adjustment based on the number of shares tendered in the issuer tender offer.

Everest Topco may also earn up to an additional \$50 million in cash based on Eddie Bauer's adjusted earnings for fiscal 2014.

Jos. A. Bank said that the transaction will be financed through a combination of cash on the balance sheet, committed debt financing provided by Goldman, Sachs & Co. and new equity issued to Everest Topco at \$56 per share. The tender offer will be financed by cash on the balance sheet.

When the transaction closes, Everest Topco will own about 16.6 percent of Jos. A. Bank's outstanding stock. It will also have the right to appoint two directors to Jos. A. Bank's board. The closing of the deal is a condition to completion of the tender offer.

Jos. A. Bank also announced Friday that it expects fourth-quarter adjusted earnings of about \$1.04 to \$1.10 per share. The chain said it had strong sales during the critical holiday period, with comparable brand sales — which includes stores and online — up 9.1 percent.

Fourth-quarter comparable brands sales rose 1.8 percent. □



Shoppers are reflected in the window as they walk past an Eddie Bauer store, in Seattle. Jos. A. Bank Clothiers Inc. said Friday, Feb. 14, 2014, it is buying the parent company of Eddie Bauer in a cash-and-stock deal valued at \$825 million that will help strengthen its men's wear business and diversify its offerings. (AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

options with regards to Jos. A. Bank. Its shares fell more than 8 percent in Friday morning trading. Investors may believe the Eddie Bauer deal makes a transaction between Jos. A. Bank and Men's Wearhouse less likely. Jos. A. Bank said Friday that it struck a deal with Everest Topco LLC to

Jos. A. Bank, established in 1905, has 629 stores in 44 states and the District of Columbia. The two brands will run independent of each other after the transaction is complete. The combined company is expected to have more than \$2.1 billion in revenue in 2014 and adjusted earn-

fer. But it leaves the door open to a higher offer from Men's Wearhouse. Jos. A. Bank said that it will start an issuer tender offer to acquire up to 4.6 million of its common shares, or 16.4 percent of its outstanding stock, at \$65 per share, or up to \$300 million. The Hampstead, Maryland-

Thyssenkrupp shows signs of a turnaround

STANLEY REED
© 2014 New York Times

LONDON - ThyssenKrupp, the venerable but troubled German industrial conglomerate, produced some evidence Friday that its management's turnaround plan was working. The company, based in Essen, reported a loss of 69 million euros (\$94.5 million) in the company's first quarter, which ran through December. But the more closely watched earnings before interest, taxes and depreciation more than

doubled to 247 million euros compared to the period a year earlier and surpassed expectations of 209 million euros, according to Jeff Largey, an analyst with Macquarie in London.

"The company is more stable," Largey said in an interview. "The question is how long it will take the upswing to pay off."

ThyssenKrupp's shares were up more than 3 percent at midday on Friday in Frankfurt, Germany. Heinrich Hiesinger, who was brought in as chief ex-

ecutive in 2011, has sold businesses equivalent to about a third of revenues and replaced a large portion of the top executives in an effort to stabilize the company, which had been running large losses that led to an 880 million euro capital increase in December.

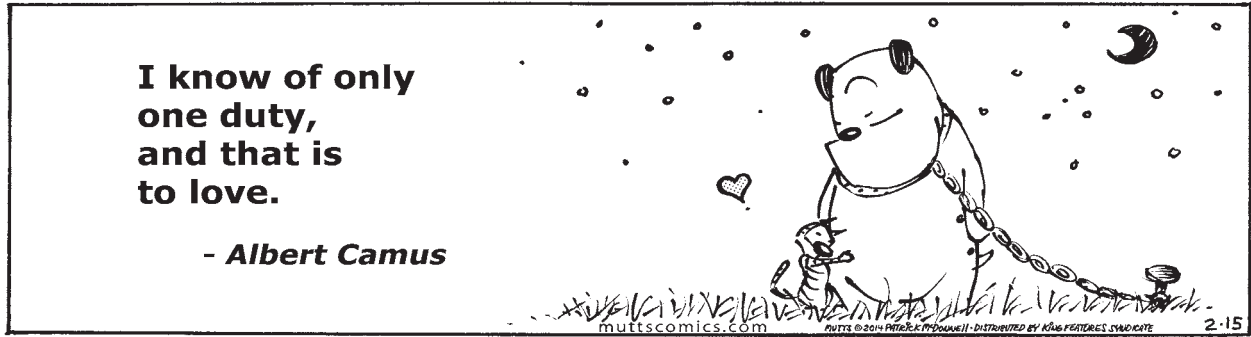
"We are on track; we have reduced the significant risks," Guido Kerkhoff, the company's chief financial officer, said in an interview. Although ThyssenKrupp still faces major uncertainties,

including which businesses Hiesinger will retain, the company's existence no longer looks threatened.

The main factors in the quarterly loss were write-downs related to the sale of the company's minority stake in the Finnish steel maker Outokumpu late last year.

Hiesinger said he was trying to focus on what he considered the company's more valuable industrial businesses like elevators, where it is one of the world leaders. □

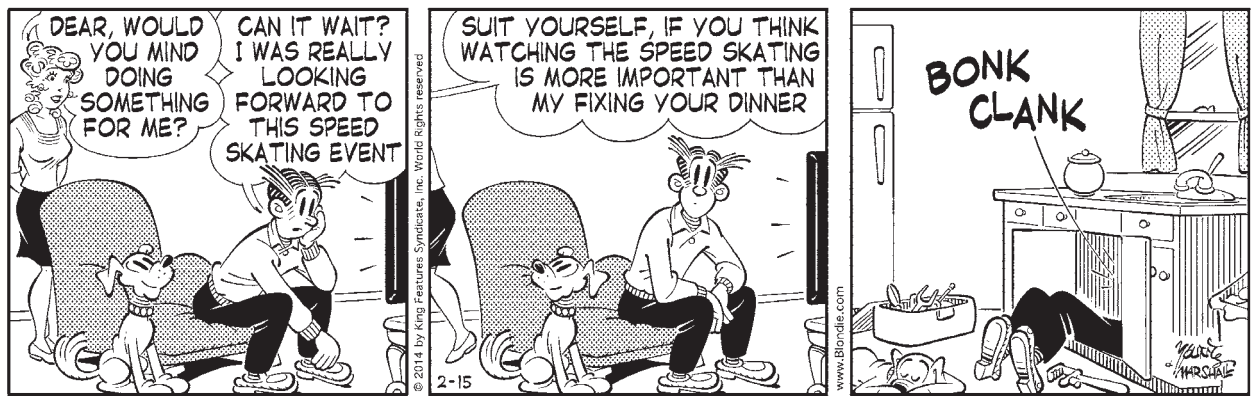
Mutts



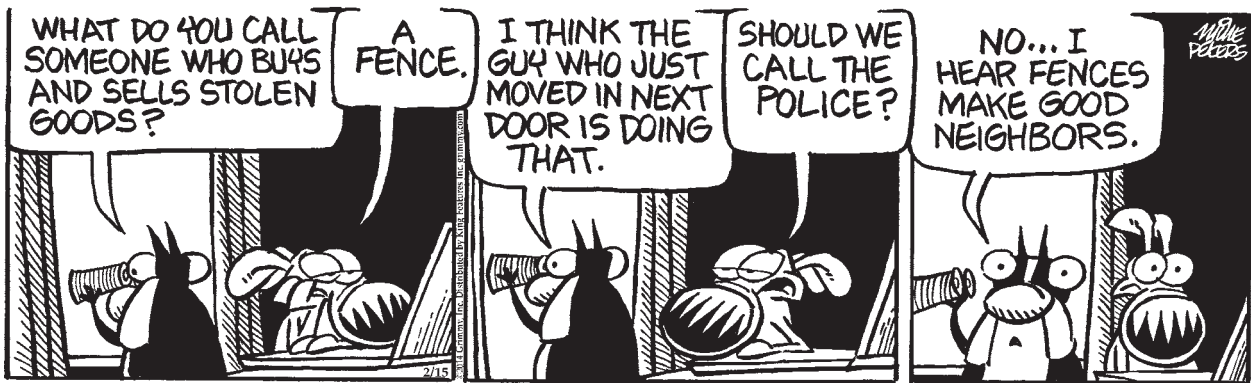
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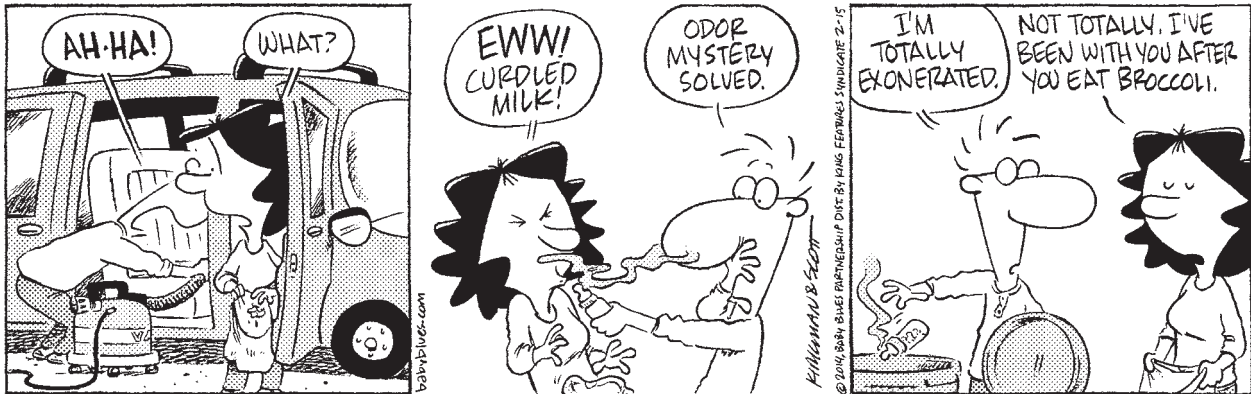
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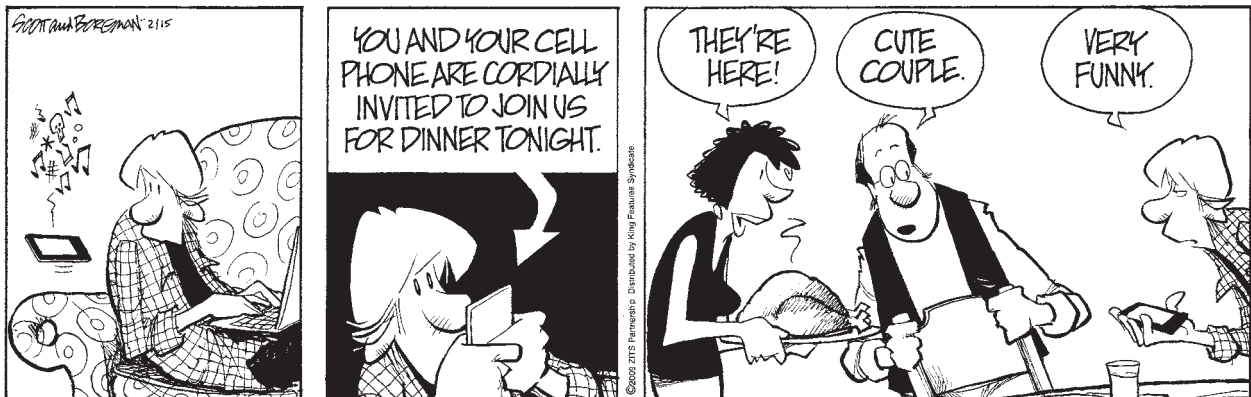
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Zits



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7	6						2	8
		3					1	
	4		1		5		6	
8				1				9
2				8				7
	8		7		4		5	
		6				9		
3	5						7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	6	1	9	5	4	8	7	3
8	3	9	7	6	2	4	5	1
5	4	7	1	3	8	2	9	6
6	5	4	8	1	3	7	2	9
3	9	2	6	4	7	1	8	5
7	1	8	2	9	5	6	3	4
1	8	6	5	7	9	3	4	2
9	2	3	4	8	1	5	6	7
4	7	5	3	2	6	9	1	8

ACROSS

- 1 Very excited
- 5 TV's Paula
- 10 Killed
- 14 Fall forecast
- 15 Camel's smaller cousin
- 16 Hired vehicle
- 17 Lab rat's labyrinth
- 18 Adam's apples
- 19 Passionate
- 20 Mrs. Roosevelt
- 22 Quarantine
- 24 Teriyaki sauce
- 25 Lying facedown
- 26 Cook's wear
- 29 Wrath
- 30 Abraham's son
- 34 Night light
- 35 Bullring cry
- 36 Boy wizard Harry
- 37 Shoot carefully
- 38 Add sugar to
- 40 Lyricist Gershwin
- 41 Tries to pass unnoticed
- 43 Egg drink
- 44 Cut coupons
- 45 Took illegally
- 46 Two or three
- 47 Spreads for fancy crackers
- 48 Two-footed animal
- 50 Chicago athlete
- 51 Stash of weapons
- 54 Madman
- 58 Grizzly, for one
- 59 More pleasant
- 61 Attorney General Janet
- 62 Dryer residue
- 63 Small flies
- 64 Sups
- 65 Stops
- 66 Good judgment
- 67 Horse's gait

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21			22		23			
24						25						
26	27	28				29			30	31	32	33
34				35			36					
37			38			39			40			
41		42				43			44			
45						46			47			
48				49			50					
51	52	53				54			55	56	57	
58						59		60		61		
62						63			64			
65						66			67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/15/14

Friday's Puzzle Solved

PUT	RAILS	INTO
ATOP	EERIE	MOAN
LATE	AROMA	BOLL
HEAD	LINES	INKY
CAME	CAB	
ACTORS	DIABETES	
PLUCK	HARPS	RAP
HONK	TOTIE	SAGA
IVE	PALES	HOWLS
DESERTED	WILLEM	
LOT	GOLD	
SHOO	ESSENTIAL	
DEPP	RULED	EPIC
ALEE	ERASE	RENO
KIND	DETER	SEW

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2/15/14

DOWN

- 1 Highest point
- 2 Ambition; aim
- 3 Seep out
- 4 Portrayer of Ralph Kramden

- 5 Metal mixture
- 6 Make indistinct
- 7 Water barrier
- 8 Baseball official
- 9 Cowboy's rope
- 10 Least fresh
- 11 Etna's output
- 12 Door going out
- 13 Broad
- 21 Prefix for profit or fat
- 23 Chili dog topper, perhaps
- 25 Spent too long before a mirror
- 26 Pile up
- 27 Beside the ; irrelevant
- 28 " and Juliet"
- 29 Suffix for text or percent
- 31 Leaning
- 32 Eagle's nest
- 33 Casino game
- 35 Cries from a flu shot clinic
- 36 Nickname for Margaret
- 38 Coil of yarn

- 39 Disabled car's need
- 42 Einstein and his namesakes
- 44 Hit musical for Liza Minnelli
- 46 Tabby or tiger
- 47 Play on words
- 49 Hunger pains

- 50 Witch's spell
- 51 Up to the task
- 52 Harness strap
- 53 Make smooth
- 54 "Why don't we?"
- 55 Rip
- 56 5 _ 10 is 2
- 57 Expense
- 60 Tin container

Peruvian skier celebrates last place

MATTIAS KAREN
AP Sports Writer

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia (AP) — Roberto Carcelen skied over to the fans beside the course, grabbed a Peruvian flag and waved it at the crowd as he came down the final straight toward the finish line.

It was the kind of celebration often seen by the winner of a cross-country skiing race at the Olympics. Carcelen, though, was celebrating finishing in last place.

Or rather, the fact that he finished at all.

The 43-year-old Peruvian was more than 10 minutes slower than any other competitor in the men's 15-kilometer classical race at the Sochi Games on Friday, finishing dead last in 87th place. His time of 1 hour, 6 minutes, 28.9 seconds was more than 27 minutes slower than that of winner Dario Cologna of Switzerland.

That didn't stop him from giving Peru its moment in the spotlight in Sochi.

Skiing slowly toward the finish in the warm sunlight using just one pole while carrying the flag with his other hand, Carcelen was given a loud ovation as he crossed the line. He was then given a hug by Nepalese skier Dachhiri Sherpa, who finished second to last. Even better, Cologna himself came over and gave Carcelen a pat on the back, as the Swiss star was waiting around for the race to finish before the flower ceremony could be held.

Carcelen also carried Peru's flag at the opening ceremony, having become the first athlete from the country to compete at the Winter Games in Vancouver. There, he was second to last, but Friday's race may still have been a bigger achievement. He said he injured his ribs shortly before the Olympics, and had to deal with the pain as well as the tough conditions in the soft and wet snow.

"It was a very difficult race for me," Carcelen said. "I was in a lot of pain on my right ribs. ... Hopefully I'll in-

spire people in Peru."

Carcelen doesn't plan on being back at the 2018 Olympics. This was his swan song on the international stage, and he made sure it was a memorable one.

"I'm retiring now," he said. "I want to dedicate myself to a cross-country development project and to work with kids to get them to the Olympics. I think I'll be more useful doing this." □



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More talking to babies helps their brains

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Using videos or flash cards to teach tots may not be the best idea. Simply talking to babies is key to building crucial language and vocabulary skills — but sooner is better, and long sentences are good.

So says research that aims to explain, and help solve, the troubling “word gap”: Children from more affluent, professional families hear millions more words before they start school than poor kids, leaving the lower-income students at an academic disadvantage that’s difficult to overcome. That gap starts to appear at a younger age than scientists once thought, around 18 months, said Stanford University psychology professor Anne Fernald.

And research being presented this week at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science suggests that it’s not just hearing lists of words that matters as much as rich, varied language with good grammar that trains babies’ brains to learn through context.

Instead of just saying, “Here’s an orange,” it would be better to say: “Let’s put the orange in this bowl with the banana and the apple and the grapes.” “It’s making nets of meaning that then will help the child learn new words,” Fernald explained.

“The advice I give mothers is to have conversations with your babies,” added Erika Hoff, a psychology professor at Florida Atlantic University. “Children can hear lots of talk that goes over their head in terms of



In this Feb. 3, 2014 photo, caseworker and home visitor Stephanie Taveras, left, reads a book with Ashley Cox, center, and Cox’s 16-month-old son Jaiden, right, at the family’s home in Providence, R.I. The city has begun an effort to boost language skills for children from low-income families by equipping them with audio recorders that count every word they hear. During home visits, social workers go over the word counts with parents and suggest tips to boost the child’s language skills

Associated Press

the meaning, and they still benefit from it.”

The research comes amid a growing push for universal preschool, to help disadvantaged youngsters catch up. But it also raises the question of whether children from low-income, less educated families need earlier intervention, such as preschool that starts at age 3 instead of 4, or higher quality day care. Some have suggested a “Let’s talk” campaign aimed at new parents to stress talking, singing and reading with tots even before they can respond. That can be difficult for parents working multiple jobs, or who may not read

well or who simply don’t know why it’s important.

Scientists have long known that before they start kindergarten, children from middle-class or affluent families have heard millions more words than youngsters from low-income families, leaving the poorer children with smaller vocabularies and less ready to succeed academically. Fernald said by some measures, 5-year-olds from low-income families can lag two years behind their peers in tests of language development.

Brain scans support the link, said Dr. Kimberly Noble of Columbia University Medical Center. Early experiences shape the connections that children’s brains form, and kids from higher socio-economic backgrounds devote more “neural real estate” to brain regions involved in language development, she found.

How early does the word gap appear? Around age 18 months, Stanford’s Fer-

nald discovered when she compared how children mentally process the language they hear. Lower-income kids in her study achieved at age 2 the level of proficiency that more affluent kids had reached six months earlier.

Fernald tucked recorders into T-shirts of low-income toddlers in Spanish-speaking households to deter-

mine what they heard all day — and found remarkable differences in what’s called child-directed speech. That’s when children are spoken to directly, in contrast to television or conversations they overhear.

One child heard more than 12,000 words of child-directed speech in a day, while another heard a mere 670 words, she found. The youngsters who received more child-directed speech processed language more efficiently and learned words more quickly, she reported.

But it’s not just quantity of speech that matters — it’s quality, Hoff cautioned. She studied bilingual families and found that whatever the language, children fare better when they learn it from a native speaker. In other words, if Mom and Dad speak Spanish but aren’t fluent in English, it’s better for the child to have a solid grounding in Spanish at home and then learn English later in school.

Next, scientists are testing whether programs that teach parents better ways to talk to tots really do any good. Fernald said preliminary results from one of the first — a program called Habla Conmigo, Spanish for Talk With Me, that enrolls low-income, Spanish-speaking mothers in San Jose, Calif. — are promising. □

Human genes reflect impact of historical events

FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Tell-tale relics of Europe’s colonial period, the Mongol empire and the Arab slave trade can be found in the genes of modern humans, scientists said Thursday.

Researchers from Britain and Germany used almost 1,500 DNA samples from 95 different populations across the world to produce a map showing genetic links stretching

back 4,000 years. By examining the moment when a particular part of DNA first appears, they were able to tie the genetic mixing of populations to historical events.

Some of these links have long been assumed, but others came as a surprise, said Daniel Falush, a researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, who co-authored the paper published in the journal Science. □

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'The Waltons' Patriarch Ralph Waite dies at 85

LYNN ELBER,
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ralph Waite, who played the kind-and-steady patriarch of a tight-knit rural Southern family on the TV series "The Waltons," died Thursday, his manager said. He was 85.

Waite, who lived in California's Palm Springs area, died at midday, manager Alan Mills said. Mills, who did not know the cause of death, said he was taken aback because Waite had been in good health and still working.

Waite appeared last year in episodes of the series "NCIS," in which he played the dad of star Mark Harmon's character. He also appeared in "Bones" and "Days of Our Lives."

"The Waltons," which aired on CBS from 1972 to 1981, starred Waite as John Walton, and Richard Thomas played his oldest son, John-Boy, an aspiring novelist. The gentle family drama was set in Virginia's Blue Ridge mountains.

The show, which followed the Waltons' triumphs and setbacks through the Great Depression and World War II, was narrated by its rich-voiced creator, Earl Hamner Jr., who based it on his family memories.

It was a TV rarity, a respectful depiction of Southern country life, and proved so popular that it overpowered its hit comedy competition, NBC's "The Flip Wilson Show."

His co-stars on Thursday praised both the actor and the man.

"I am devastated to announce the loss of my precious 'papa' Walton, Ralph Waite," said Mary McDonough, who played daughter Erin Walton. "I loved him so much; I know he was so special to all of us. He was like a real father to me. Goodnight Daddy. I



This photo released by HBO shows Ralph Waite as Reverend Norman Balthus in the TV series, "Carnivale" on HBO. Associated Press

love you."

Michael Learned, who played wife Olivia Walton, said she was "devastated" by the death of "a good honest actor and a good honest man."

"He was my spiritual husband," Learned said in a statement. "We loved each other for over forty years. He died a working actor at the top of his game. He was a loving mentor to many and a role model to an entire generation."

Waite, a native of White Plains, New York, served in the U.S. Marines before earning a bachelor's degree from Bucknell University and a master's degree from Yale University Divinity School. He became an ordained Presbyterian minister and then worked at a publishing house, the paper said, before falling under the spell of acting. Waite appeared on the stage before moving onto the big screen with roles in 1967's "Cool Hand Luke" and 1970's "Five Easy Pieces," in which he played the brother of Jack Nicholson's character.

Waite received an Emmy nomination for "The Waltons" and another for his performance in the ABC miniseries "Roots."

Waite's role as a steady TV dad in the CBS drama was in contrast to his personal life that was undercut by alcoholism, Waite told The Desert Sun. □

Meredith Vieira to sub for Bob Costas on NBC

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NBC is turning to Meredith Vieira on Friday and probably at least one other day to substitute for Bob Costas, who continues to be held off the network's prime-time Olympics broadcast because of an eye infection.

Costas is feeling better but his participation is a day-to-day decision, said Jim Bell, executive producer of NBC's Olympics competition, on Friday. If Costas' illness lingers into next week, the network will consider shutting him down for the rest of the games, he said. Matt Lauer subbed for Costas for three nights starting Tuesday.

For someone with an infection in both eyes and sensitive to light, a TV studio is a lousy place to be, Bell said. "He's frustrated, of course, to have this happen but appreciative of the support he's been getting both internally and externally," he said. "His spirits, relatively speaking and all things considered, are



This Jan. 12, 2012 file photo, Meredith Vieira attends the "Today" show 60th anniversary celebration at the Edison Ballroom in New York.

Associated Press

pretty good."

With Lauer continuing to anchor the "Today" show every day and making himself available for stunts like a luge ride on Friday's show, Bell said he needed a break. Vieira was an attractive alternative because after co-hosting the opening ceremony, she's largely been on hand to do features. Picking someone else would disrupt another part of NBC's schedule, he said. Bell was the top producer of "Today" when

Lauer and Vieira were the co-anchors.

Vieira makes some NBC history as the first woman to host a prime-time Olympics telecast for the network. But it's hardly a stretch: a key factor in the success of a prime-time Olympics telecast is getting women, not just male sports fans, invested in the games.

She said that she'll anchor the telecast for "as many days as they ask me to, but I hope Bob is back tomorrow." □

'House of Cards' cast accepts Obama's endorsement



Kevin Spacey arrives at a special screening for season 2 of "House of Cards", on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014 in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

RYAN PEARSON
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Barack Obama's latest playful executive order is a tweeted effort to limit "House of Cards" plot spoil-

ers.

The second season of the political thriller about a power-hungry Washington couple premiered in its entirety Friday on Netflix. Obama's official Twitter

account notes the occasion along with the request: "No spoilers, please."

Cast members reveled in the real-life president's support at a premiere event Thursday night. Robin Wright plays Claire Underwood, wife of Kevin Spacey's vice president-to-be Frank Underwood. She says Obama "knows good stuff."

And Kate Mara, who plays reporter Zoe Barnes, double-checked the authenticity of the tweet before celebrating. She calls Obama's message "one of the coolest things that's happened to me."

Mara says the 13-episode season is "just as dark as the first." □

Moonlit migrant image wins World Press Photo award

AMSTERDAM (AP) — American photographer John Stanmeyer won the World Press Photo of the Year award for 2013 on Friday with a moonlit shot of African migrants in Djibouti holding their cellphones to the sky, seeking a better reception signal.

The 19-person jury chose 53 winning photographers in 18 categories out of nearly 100,000 submissions from around the globe for one of photojournalism's most prestigious awards.

The Associated Press won first place in single-shot "Observed Portraits" for Markus Schreiber's picture of a disappointed woman in Pretoria, South Africa who had just learned she would not be able to view Nelson Mandela's casket. Stanmeyer, of the VII photo agency, was working for National Geographic. The photo has a mysterious, eerie quality as the phones held by the men in the picture glow the same color as the moon. The signal from neighboring Somalia is cheaper, and they are hoping to send and receive messages from relatives abroad. Djibouti, in



In this photo provided on Friday Feb. 14, 2014 by World Press Photo, the World Press Photo of the Year 2013 by John Stanmeyer, USA, VII for National Geographic, shows African migrants on the shore of Djibouti city at night, raising their phones in an attempt to capture an inexpensive signal from neighboring Somalia in Djibouti City, Djibouti, Feb. 26, 2013.

the Horn of Africa, is a common stopping point for migrants attempting to reach Europe or the Middle East. One jury member, Jillian Edelstein, said the photo raised issues of "technology, globalization, migration, poverty, desperation, alienation, (and) humanity." Another, Susan Linfield, said it stood out for its hu-

mane, dignified portrayal of immigrants. "So many pictures of migrants show them as bedraggled and pathetic," she said. Among other standouts were a series by photographer Goran Tomasevic of Reuters of a rebel attack on a government checkpoint in Damascus, Syria on Jan. 30 that won first place

in the "Spot News Stories" category. One black-and-white image captures in high resolution the instant after a shell has landed and a fleeing man is engulfed by dust and rubble. Jury chair Gary Knight called it "one of the greatest images of war combat that anybody has ever seen." □

Malcolm X family upset with Nicki Minaj for photo

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Malcolm X's family and estate said Nicki Minaj's use of a famous photo of the black nationalist with a rifle in his hands and juxtaposing it with a racial slur for her new song's artwork is disrespectful and offensive. In an exclusive statement to The Associated Press on Friday, Malcolm X's daughter, Ilyasah Shabazz, said Minaj's use of the picture "in no way is endorsed by our family." "Ms. Minaj's artwork for her single does not depict the truth of Malcolm X's legacy," Shabazz's statement said. Minaj apologized Thursday. She pulled the artwork after she was criticized on social media platforms for using the photo for the cover of her new male-bashing song, "Lookin (Expletive) (Expletive)." The

title uses the N-word. Minaj said the single cover was "never the official artwork." Mark Roesler, CEO of CMG Worldwide — which is the business representative for the Malcolm X estate — called Minaj's use of the photo "dehumanizing."

"This is a family photo that was taken out of context in a totally inaccurate and tasteless way," said his statement on behalf of the family. L. Londell McMillan, the attorney for the Malcolm X estate and the black leader's daughters — and estate administrators — Ilyasah and Malaak Shabazz, said in a statement Friday that those

using the famous photo of Malcolm X need to remove it immediately. □ "Failure to do so within the next 24 hours shall result in legal action," said McMillan, who is also the lawyer

for Malcolm X's daughters, Attallah, Qubilah and Gamilah Shabazz. "The initial act and subsequent acts of distribution were improper and ill-advised. Any disparagement, infringement or disrespect of Malcolm X, and his name, image, likeness and proprietary rights will not be tolerated." Minaj's representatives didn't return emails seeking comment.

Minaj posted the artwork Wednesday on her Instagram page and website. The photo shows Malcolm X holding a rifle as he was trying to protect his family from death threats; his home had been firebombed.

"I apologize to the Malcolm X estate if the meaning of the photo was misconstrued. ... I have nothing but respect (and) adoration for u," Minaj said on her Instagram page following the criticism.



This Nov. 2, 2013 file photo shows hip-hop artist Nicki Minaj at the Power 105.1's Powerhouse Concert at the Barclays Center in New York.

The 31-year-old rapper-singer said later Thursday in an interview with radio station Hot 97 that she wrote the song to empower women because there are too many songs that attack females. □

Hollywood shooting movie about Chile miners



In this Feb. 11, 2014 photo, technicians test a human capsule on the set of the film "The 33" near Copiapo, Chile.

EVA VERGARA

Associated Press

COPIAPO, Chile (AP) —

French actress Juliette Binoche's scream pierced the frigid night in the remote Chilean desert: "They are alive!" That chilling scene was repeated more than 20 times this week on the set of "The 33," a Hollywood movie dramatizing a cave-in that trapped 33 miners deep below Chile's Atacama desert for 69 days in 2010.

Binoche and Spanish actor Antonio Banderas star in the drama about the miners' entrapment and televised rescue that mesmerized millions of people worldwide. The movie is being shot in English and is expected to be released next year. Banderas portrays Mario Sepulveda, nicknamed "Super Mario," who became the public face of the miners. Binoche plays Maria Segovia, the sister of a trapped miner who became known for her outgoing personality as "the mayor" of the settlement that sprang up outside the mine. Binoche played Segovia this week wearing baggy pants, a white and blue parka and a black wig that made her almost unrecognizable. Her scene: pounding on a gate and asking families to rebel against the guards who block them from reaching the mine hours after the cave-in. The film will deal with previously unknown details of the miners' time below ground, including how they stretched a meager 48-hour store of emergency food for 17 days to survive in entrapment longer than anyone else before. □

Writing Off The Unemployed



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Back in 1987 my Princeton colleague Alan Blinder published a very good book titled "Hard Heads, Soft Hearts." It was, as you might guess, a call for tough-minded but compassionate economic policy. Unfortunately, what we actually got - especially, although not only, from Republicans - was the opposite. And it's difficult to find a better example of the hardhearted, softheaded nature of today's GOP than what happened last week, as Senate Republicans once again used the filibuster to block aid to the long-term unemployed.

What do we know about long-term unemployment in America?

First, it's still at near-record levels. Historically, the long-term unemployed - those out of work for 27 weeks or more - have usually been between 10 and 20 percent of total unemployment. Today the number is 35.8 percent. Yet extended unemployment benefits, which went into effect in 2008, have been allowed to lapse. As a result, few of the long-term unemployed are receiving any kind of support.

Second, if you think the typical long-term unemployed American is one of Those People - nonwhite, poorly educated, etc. - you're wrong, according to research by the Urban Institute's Josh Mitchell. Half of the long-term unemployed are non-Hispanic whites. College graduates are less likely to lose their jobs than workers with less education, but once they do they are actually a bit more likely than others to join the ranks of the long-term unemployed. And workers older than 45 are especially likely to spend a long time unemployed.

Third, in a weak job market long-term unemployment tends to be self-perpetuating, because employers in effect discriminate against the jobless. Many people have suspected that this was the case, and last year Rand Ghayad of Northeastern University provided a dramatic confirmation. He sent out thousands of fictitious résumés in response to job ads, and found that potential employers were drastically less likely to respond if the fictitious applicant had been out of work more than six months, even if he or she was better qualified than other applicants.

What all of this suggests is that the long-term unemployed are mainly victims of circumstances - ordinary American workers who had the bad luck to lose their jobs (which can happen to anyone) at a time of extraordinary labor market weakness, with three times as many people seeking jobs as there are job openings. Once that happened, the very fact of their unemployment made it very hard to find a new job.

So how can politicians justify cutting off modest financial aid to their unlucky fellow citizens? Some Republicans justified last week's filibuster with the tired old argument that we can't afford to increase the deficit. Actually, Democrats paired the benefits extension with measures to increase tax receipts. But in any case this is a bizarre objection at a time when federal deficits are not just falling, but clearly falling too fast, holding back economic recovery.

For the most part, however, Republicans justify refusal to help the unemployed by asserting that we have so much long-term unemployment because people aren't trying hard enough to find jobs, and that extended benefits are part of the reason for that lack of effort. People who say things like this - people like, for example, Sen. Rand Paul - probably imagine that they're being tough-minded and realistic. In fact, however, they're peddling a fantasy at odds with all the evidence. For example: if unemployment is high because people are unwilling to work, reducing the supply of labor, why aren't wages going up?

But evidence has a well-known liberal bias. The more their economic doctrine fails - remember how the Fed's actions were supposed to produce runaway inflation? - the more fiercely conservatives cling to that doctrine. More than five years after a financial crisis plunged the Western world into what looks increasingly like a quasi-permanent slump, making nonsense of free-market orthodoxy, it's hard to find a leading Republican who has changed his or her mind on, well, anything.

And this imperviousness to evidence goes along with a stunning lack of compassion.

If you follow debates over unemployment, it's striking how hard it is to find anyone on the Republican side even hinting at sympathy for the long-term jobless. Being unemployed is always presented as a choice, as something that only happens to losers who don't really want to work. Indeed, one often gets the sense that contempt for the unemployed comes first, that the supposed justifications for tough policies are after-the-fact rationalizations.

The result is that millions of Americans have in effect been written off - rejected by potential employers, abandoned by politicians whose fuzzy-mindedness is matched only by the hardness of their hearts. □



Energy: The American Precariat



DAVID BROOKS
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When foreign visitors used to describe American culture, they generally settled on different versions of one trait: energy. Whether driven by crass motivations or spiritual ones, Americans, visitors agreed, worked more frantically, moved more and switched jobs more than just about anybody else on earth.

That's changing. In the past 60 years, for example, Americans have become steadily less mobile. In 1950, 20 percent of Americans moved in a given year. Now, it's around 12 percent. In the 1950s and 1960s, people lived in the same house for an average of five years; now people live in the same house for an average of 8.6 years. When it comes to geographic mobility, we are now at historic lows, no more mobile than people in Denmark or Finland.

Why is this happening? A few theories offer partial explanations, but only partial ones.

It is true that we are an aging nation and older people tend to move less. But today's young people are much less mobile than young people from earlier generations. Between the 1980s and the 2000s alone, mobility among young adults dropped by 41 percent.

It's also true that many people are locked into homes with underwater values. But as Timothy Noah pointed out in Washing-

ton Monthly, mobility among renters is down just as sharply as mobility among homeowners.

It's also true that labor markets are getting more homogeneous. It used to be that the jobs found in Pittsburgh were different from the ones found in Atlanta. But now they are more similar, so there is less reason to move from one city to another. But that also fails to explain the tremendous, drops over decades.

No, a big factor here is a loss in self-confidence. It takes faith to move. You are putting yourself through temporary expense and hardship because you have faith that over the long run you will slingshot forward. Many highly educated people, who are still moving in high numbers, have that long-term faith. Less-educated people often do not. One of the oddities of the mobility that does exist is that people are not moving to low-unemployment/high-income areas. Instead they are moving to lower-income areas with cheap housing. That is to say, they are less likely to endure temporary housing hardship for the sake of future opportunity. They are more likely to move to places that offer immediate comfort even if the long-term income prospects are lower.

This loss of faith is evident in other areas of life. Fertility rates, a good marker of confidence, are down. Even accounting for cyclical changes, people are less likely to voluntarily vacate a job in search of a better one. Only 46 percent of white Americans believe they have a good chance of improving their standard of living, the lowest levels in the history of the General Social Survey.

Peter Beinart wrote a fascinating piece for National Journal, arguing that Americans used to have much more faith in capitalism, a classless society, America's role in the world and organized religion than people from Europe. But now American attitudes resemble European attitudes, and when you just

look at young people, American exceptionalism is basically gone.

Fifty percent of Americans over 65 believe America stands above all others as the greatest nation on earth. Only 27 percent of Americans ages 18 to 29 believe that. As late as 2003, Americans were more likely than Italians, Brits and Germans to say the "free market economy is the best system on which to base the future of the world." By 2010, they were slightly less likely than those Europeans to embrace capitalism.

Thirty years ago, a vast majority of Americans identified as members of the middle class. But since 1988, the percentage of Americans who call themselves members of the "haves-nots" has doubled. Today's young people are more likely to believe success is a matter of luck, not effort, than earlier generations.

These pessimistic views bring to mind a concept that's been floating around Europe: the Precariat. According to British academic Guy Standing, the Precariat is the growing class of people living with short-term and part-time work with precarious living standards and "without a narrative of occupational development." They live with multiple forms of insecurity and are liable to join protest movements across the political spectrum. The American Precariat seems more hunkered down, insecure, risk averse, relying on friends and family but without faith in American possibilities. This fatalism is historically uncharacteristic of America.

No one response is going to reverse the trend, but Michael Strain of the American Enterprise Institute believes government should offer moving vouchers to the long-term unemployed so they can chase opportunity. If we could induce more people to Go West! (or South, East or North) in search of opportunity, maybe the old future-oriented mindset would return. □

A new 'Tonight' dawns with Jimmy Fallon as host

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — On the walls of Jimmy Fallon's office are photos. Lots of photos. Of his 2007 marriage to film producer Nancy Juvonen. Of their 6-month-old daughter, Winnie. Of his mom and dad as newlyweds. Fallon points them all out to a visitor proudly. But the dominant photo is a portrait of Johnny Carson, aglow in front of his "Tonight Show" drapes.

"I look at that every day," says Fallon, "and just go, 'Yeah — it's SO fun!'"

Already Fallon is immersed in this kind of fun. For five years he hosted NBC's "Late Night," a job he relinquished only days ago. And now he's looking ahead to the Big Show, "The Tonight Show," where Monday, at the special time of 12 midnight EST, he retrieves Carson's mantle — back in New York after 42 years in Los Angeles.

"It's giant! It's a big TV moment!" says Fallon. "Even if it wasn't me, I would tune in to watch."

A Manhattan home base perfectly suits its new host, a consummate New Yorker, while bringing it under the same hallowed roof (NBC's Rockefeller Center headquarters) as "Late Night" and "Saturday Night Live," other jewels in the crown of Lorne Michaels, its new executive producer.

It also allows "Tonight" to make a clean break from its turbulent post-Carson era under Jay Leno (and, fleetingly, Conan O'Brien), when the Carson-bequeathed formula of jokes, celebs and chit-chat was, too often, upstaged by behind-the-scenes soap opera.

Leno was consistently the late-night ratings winner, but never won much respect from the public, critics, or even his own network, which twice sent him packing from "Tonight."

Back in New York, where both "The Tonight Show" and Carson as its host made their start, this 60-year-old TV institution is poised to pick up the

legend from where it languished after Carson's 1992 retirement.

The show will even recommit that sacred space — Studio 6B — where Carson reigned before his 1972 move west.

"I wish Johnny Carson was

different, after all: essentially an hour-earlier "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon," including its house band, the Roots (though this eight-piece ensemble will expand by two horns), its announcer-sidekick, Steve Higgins, and comic bits like

Show.' We grew into it!"

Fallon first became popular during his six years on "Saturday Night Live," where he displayed a chameleonic range of characters and impersonations, plus a musicality that grants him uncanny skill at mimicking

"I learned a lesson from that movie," he says. "I definitely appreciate everything I get now, where I probably wouldn't have if that movie was a giant hit. I'm kind of happy that my film career didn't take off." Now a TV staple, Fallon declares that he's developed "a voice that people expect from us."

What is that voice?

"Fun. Nice. Absurd," he says reflectively. A thoughtful pause, then a laugh. "I'm still working on the list." His key strength as host boils down to his unflagging engagement, says "Tonight Show" producer Josh Lieb. "He's got genuine empathy for his guests and for the audience," he said. "He's trying to give them the best of himself."

"He is the most inclusive comic I've ever known," adds Lieb, whose credits include "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart" and the sitcom "NewsRadio." "Some comics want to shut the audience out. Jimmy really wants to bring the whole world in on the joke."

Fallon is also up for anything, and his guests seem chill about following his lead. Like when he and tough-guy action-film star Jason Statham doused each other with pitchers of water during a card game called Water War.

"I'm not afraid to get wet," says Fallon, chortling at the memory. "I'm not afraid to get messy."

It seems to be paying off. Note that charter "Late Night" host David Letterman held that post for more than a decade before launching "Late Show" (now Fallon's CBS rival at 11:35 p.m.). O'Brien labored 15 long years before his short-lived promotion to "Tonight."

Now, after only a five-year internship, Fallon has graduated to what's repeatedly, momentarily, hopefully described as his "last job." "That's what it SHOULD be," he nods. "It's a great job, and it should be the last job, if you do it right. I'm looking forward to being here a long time!" □



This 2013 photo released by NBC shows Jimmy Fallon, host of "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," in New York. Fallon will debut as host of his new show, "The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon," on Monday, Feb. 17, 2014.

(AP Photo/NBC, Lloyd Bishop)

still around, so he could see what we did with his studio," says Fallon. "I can't WAIT to show everybody!" But even as the 39-year-old waxes eagerness about the new "Tonight Show," he wants everyone to know it won't really be so

"Slow Jam the News" and "Thank-you Notes."

"When we started 'Late Night,' we were DOING 'Late Night,'" Fallon explains, "but over five years it's kind of grown, and blossomed into what it became, which is 'The Tonight

numerous recording stars. His 2004 departure from "SNL" to pursue a film career didn't pan out, particularly with the comedy flop "Taxi," in which he co-starred with Queen Latifah (who now has her own talk show, in daytime).